The National Future Farmer

Owned and Published by the Future Farmers of America

He Learned By Doing

★

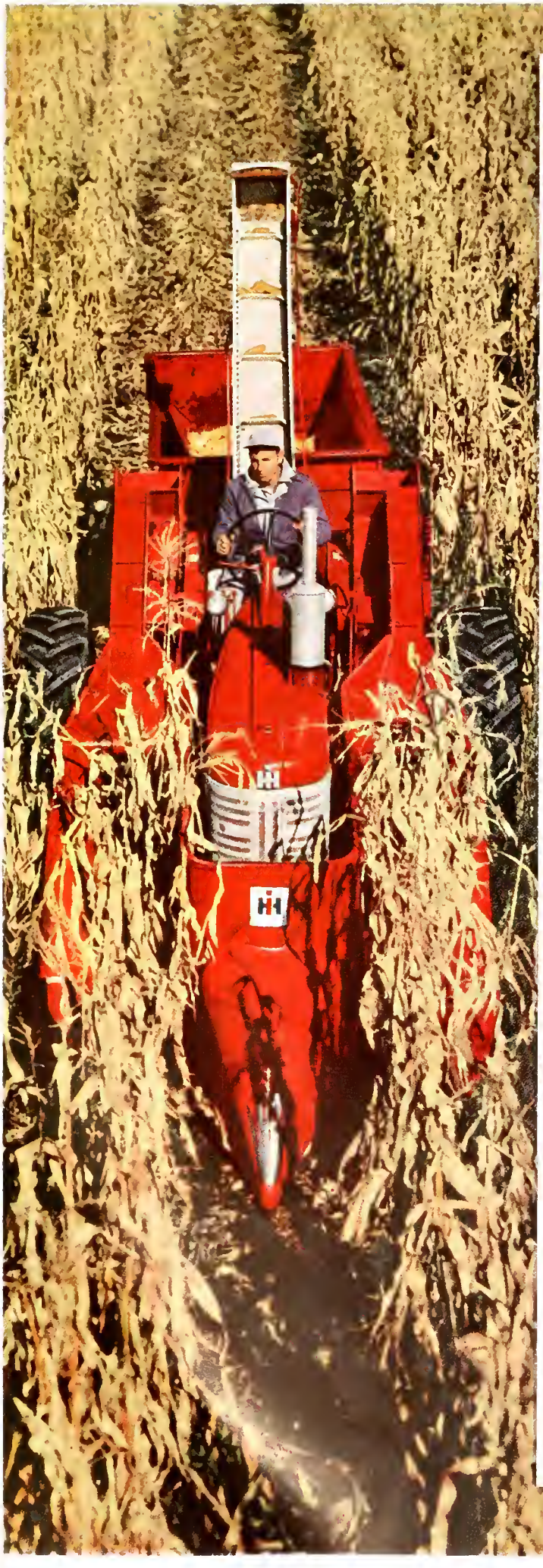
You Can Farm

★

Boating Can Be Safe

★

August-September, 1958



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It's a corn picker . . . a field sheller—two machines in one! Just add new sheller attachment to field-shell 1,500 to 2,000 bushels a day with the corn-saving McCormick 2-MH! And you can switch between shelled and ear corn harvest in 10 minutes —*without* removing the sheller unit! This quick change is an IH exclusive.

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International Harvester Products *pay for themselves in use*
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Alex C. Smith with one of his sizable sidelines . . . "the best bred buffalo in Akron, New York."

Farmers you look to as leaders look to Firestone for tires

White fences and low stone walls frame the Erie County grainfields, and fat dairy and beef herds dot the stream-fed pastures. Alex Smith farms 560 acres in this part of New York State, and his Akron neighbors call him "one of the county's best."

He's earned the title. Alex has increased the fertility of his clay loam, and now his farm is one of the models in the county. His 250 Aberdeen Angus and Herefords match any in the state. And aside from full-time farming, he owns 32 trucks hauling Erie County gypsum. These two jobs call for a lot of rolling stock and plenty of dependable tires. With Mr. Smith, dependable tires mean Firestone tires.

In New York State and throughout the country, farm leaders look to Firestone for better farm tires. As Alex Smith says, "I have over 250 Firestones working right now. They hold up longer than any tires we've ever used, at farming and trucking."

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Firestone

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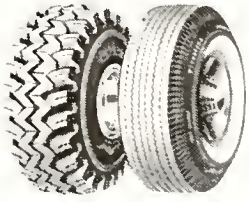

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OUR COVER— Photo by Bob E. Taylor

Here's Gerald Jones, FFA President at Tempe, Arizona, checking the mailbox for pertinent farm news. Like many other Future Farmers, he counts on the mail for agricultural contacts during his summer vacation months.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send both old and new addresses to Editorial Offices, THE NATIONAL FUTURE FARMER, Box 29, Alexandria, Virginia.

New '58 Dodge Power Giants do a handsome job . . . are 4-way leaders of the low-priced 3

Here's a thoroughbred you needn't gentle . . . a new kind of truck that's built for action and looks it. And today's all-new Dodge *Power Giants* for '58 are even easier on your pocketbook than they are on your eyes. In fact, they lead the low-priced three in all four big ways that mean most to farmers.

First in Styling! You get the look of tomorrow in your new Dodge *Power Giant*. From massive chrome grille and striking dual headlights to smart new luxury cab interiors, these trucks are styled to stay new for years.

First in Power! You get up to 24% more work-saving power with a new '58 Dodge. This extra power reserve reduces engine wear and repairs.

First in Payload! You get a bonus in load-carrying capacity no competitive make can offer. Unique *Power Giant* construction lets you haul up to $\frac{1}{3}$ more each trip.

First in Economy! You get dollar-saving mileage and long-range, low-cost engine upkeep with Power-Dome V-8 engine design . . . and only Dodge has it.

Remember . . . handsome is as handsome does . . . and these all-new Dodge *Power Giants* are built to do a man-sized job handsomely, year in, year out. What's more, *they're priced with the lowest!* Why not see and drive your choice of these rugged new trucks—V-8 or Six—at your Dodge dealer's soon?

DODGE *Power Giants*

Scoot into summer

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A smooth, soaring ride; distinctive design; rugged construction. The famous Cushman Husky 4-cycle engine. Up to 50 miles per hour, up to 100 miles per gallon.

for all light hauling
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Your Editors Say . . .

Every organization has a public relations plan. No organization can be successful without one. That the FFA must and should have the backing of other organizations and the public in general, goes without saying. Yes, we have a Director of Public Relations on the national level. He is John Farrar. But John cannot plan the public relations program for each unit of the FFA. Only the chapter and each member can do that. John can help only if you want to be helped.

What is public relations? Many confuse public relations with publicity. They are not the same. Publicity is information usually appearing in public print. Public relations is the activities of an organization in building and maintaining sound relations with the public, so as to adapt itself to the public and then inform the public of its place in the community. Publicity may be a part of a public relations program, but is not broad enough in scope.

Why have a planned public relations program? What the people in your community know and think about the FFA is important. It may be good or bad, but whatever it is no chapter can escape relations with the public. If the relations are bad, I will show you a chapter that is really struggling. If it is good, then I will show you a planned public relations program and no doubt a top-notch chapter. Can we afford not to have good community relations?

How may a public relations program get started? By first knowing well the FFA program and its purposes. You cannot sell anyone else on your organization if you are not sold yourself. Determine what need FFA has in your community and then set up activities that will inform the people what these needs are and how your organization is meeting them. Every group of people should be informed—from teachers to store keepers. We have nothing to hide.

Talking about public relations—here's another reason why it is so important to us. The farmer is becoming a minority group. When about 90 percent of the U.S. voters who control legislative policies are non-farmers, we certainly need to help keep these non-farm people up-to-date on farm problems. Here's your opportunity to help during—

Farm-City
Week
November 21-27

During National Farm-City Week many organizations will be co-operating in activities aimed at building friendship and understanding between farm and city people. In another issue, we plan to carry a story telling what FFA members can do to help and we would like information from chapters that participated in Farm-City Week last year. If your chapter did anything, we would appreciate a letter telling about it.

Farm Safety Week, July 20-26, will be about over when you read this, but the need for farm safety will still be with you. There are 52 weeks in every year so do be careful and set a good example for others. Accidents to farm residents took about 12,800 lives and injured more than a million last year.

Cedric Lafley
Managing Editor

Special Delivery!

1958 BUICK SPECIAL CONVERTIBLE ILLUSTRATED

A new set of AC Hot Tip Spark Plugs can deliver savings up to three times their cost.

When your GM car comes off the production line you will find either six or eight AC Hot Tip Spark Plugs under the hood. ACs are the manufacturer's original equipment choice for more new cars than any other. Make them your choice for replacement—for your trucks, tractors, and stationary engines, too.

If your spark plugs have delivered 10,000 miles of service, or the equivalent in running time, they're due for a change. And, a change to ACs can save you up to one gallon of gasoline out of every ten. This is because the exclusive AC Hot Tip burns away carbon and oil deposits. It keeps fuel-burning efficiency up, and fouling down. It keeps ACs clean-burning longer.

ACs are factory-installed on more new vehicles than any other make. Have them installed in your car, truck and tractor.

Watch Walt Disney Studios' ZORRO every week on ABC-TV

AC SPARK PLUG ✿ THE ELECTRONICS DIVISION OF GENERAL MOTORS

ACTION starts with

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THIS BUTLER INSTALLATION CAN

Save you thousands of dollars

IF YOU HARVEST 10,000 BUSHELS OR MORE OF CORN OR SORGHUM ANNUALLY

Here is a system that makes it practical and profitable for big corn or sorghum farmers to use a picker-sheller or a corn combine.

It consists of a Butler flat storage building equipped with a batch-dryer, Force-Aire conditioning equipment and high speed augers to move the grain.

This system gives you pushbutton control over grain drying, handling and storing from the time it is harvested until the day it is sold.

Here's the way it works. You simply dump shelled corn or sorghum into an auger-hopper (as shown above). It is automatically lifted into the Butler batch-dryer. Here it is quickly and safely dried to the desired moisture content. Then, it is automatically augered into the special Butler grain storage building. Here it is kept dry, cool and bright, thanks to Butler's Force-Aire grain conditioning equipment.

Drying and storing your grain this modern, Butler pushbutton way offers many advantages. You can get into the field earlier—finish harvesting sooner. Field losses are reduced, yields are higher. Handling shelled corn cuts your storage requirements, lets you handle more bushels of corn or sorghum at a far lower cost.

Your Butler grain storage building will never become a white elephant, either. It can be used as a shelter for machinery, a repair shop, or as a cattle barn. The sturdy, all-metal construction is fire and lightning safe. And, it requires little maintenance.

For full details on Butler drying and storing equipment, see your nearby Butler Builder or write direct.

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Transportation, Outdoor Advertising
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Please send me more information on Butler batch-dryers and grain storage buildings.

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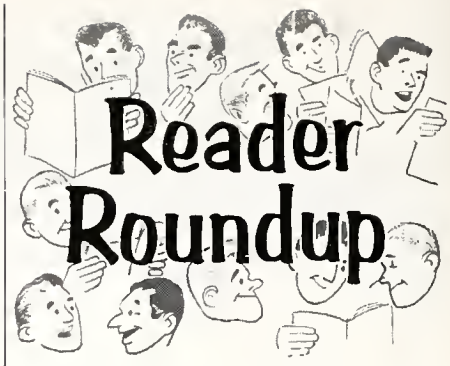

Gretna, Virginia

I enjoy your magazine very much. This is my freshman year in the FFA and *The National FUTURE FARMER* has helped me very much in my work.

I like reading the special sections and the jokes in the magazine. Everything that I have written here goes for everyone in the Gretna Chapter.

The only regret I have is that the magazine is published only six times yearly. We would like for it to be published more often.

Donald Davis

Delta, Ohio

I have found your magazine to be the most interesting of all farm magazines we receive. I have two brothers in the FFA and have known many other boys from that organization.

Keep up the good work on your magazine. I find the whole thing interesting, not one certain part.

Phyllis Emmons

Fresno, California

I'm enclosing herewith subscriptions for six additional members of the Central Union Future Farmers of America. These boys came to us after our previous 100 percent order was mailed to you, and these subscriptions keep our chapter in the 100 percent column.

I am also enclosing a change of address. Again may I express our appreciation for your wonderful magazine.

Walter E. Atwood
Director, Ag. Department

Fulgham, Kentucky

I am a Future Farmer in my second year of FFA work. I enjoy reading *The National FUTURE FARMER* more than any other magazine.

At the present time, I have seven farm projects and an improvement project. I especially like to read stories of other young farmers and the new ways and methods that they are using in their farming program. This gives me new ideas for livestock management and other improvement practices to be carried out in the production of my crops and the care of farm machinery.

This is an interesting magazine from cover to cover. Best wishes to the editors of a fine magazine.

Terry Smith

PURINA VISITS ANOTHER FARMER OF TOMORROW

Larry Linville shows the registered Poland China sow that is the foundation of his herd. From her five litters, 40 pigs have been weaned.

18-year-old Indiana youth owns fine herd of registered hogs

When Larry Linville returns from his agricultural studies at Purdue University, he already will have a good start toward his goal of becoming a top Indiana hog farmer. Through his own efforts, he now has a herd of 13 sows and a boar . . . all registered Poland Chinas . . . on the family farm near Shelbyville.

Larry knows livestock. He has been on the county judging team for four years and the team has placed first in the county for three years straight. He added one sow to his herd with a state-wide judging prize, plus $25.

Fifty-five trophies, in county, district and state competition, also testify to Larry's skill as a stockman. Among them are those taken by four Grand Champions, eleven Champions, three Reserve Champions and twenty-two first placers. He has been first in state competition in herdsmanship for five years in a row.

Larry is a leader in citizenship, too, taking part in youth activities of his school, community and church.

Purina congratulates Larry Linville . . . Farmer of Tomorrow . . . who already has made great strides toward his lifetime goal.

* * * *

Larry Linville's prize-winning hogs are on the new Purina Hog Program. He has received much good advice and encouragement from his Purina Dealer, Shelby Farm Supply Company, in Shelbyville. You will find your nearby Purina Dealer ready to help you with your livestock and poultry, whether you are fitting for the show ring or producing for market.

QUALITY SERVICE

FEED **PURINA** . . . YOU CAN DEPEND ON THE CHECKERBOARD FOR

Never thought a pleasure motorcycle could do farm chores, too? Well, here's one that can . . . Triumph — the pick of the crop. It's a rugged, dependable sidekick in the field and a powerful, hands-down performer on the highway.

Triumph pays for itself in more ways than one. Great for going back and forth to school or to meetings, for patrolling fences and running errands. Triumph operates so quietly that you can use it to herd cattle or on hunting trips. And Triumph is extremely economical. Models average from 75 to over 100 m.p.g.

See the new '58 Triumphs at your nearest Triumph dealer. Available in a wide variety of models and colors.

FREE! **Please send me without obligation a copy of the new, full color 1958 Triumph catalog. Dept. T-1.** ☐ Check here for name, address and telephone number of the Triumph dealer nearest you.

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SEND COUPON TO NEAREST ADDRESS . . .

In The West: JOHNSON MOTORS, INC., 267 W. Colorado St., Pasadena 1, Cal.

In The East: THE TRIUMPH CORPORATION, Towson, Baltimore 4, Maryland

Reader Roundup

Clio, South Carolina

I just want to congratulate you on the last issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER*. It was one of the best, if not the best, issue of the magazine so far. The cover is very attractive, and when it is opened we find articles that are very interesting, well written, and timely. The ads are all displayed to the best advantage, and special features, such as fishing contests, will help hold interest.

In the article on snakes, Mrs. Casey mentions the horned rattler as the smallest. It probably is, but there is a small rattler in South Carolina, known as a ground rattler, that is only six to eight inches long.

Although both our boys have been out of the FFA for several years, we are still very much interested in it. I missed the South Carolina state convention this year for the first time since our boys entered the FFA, and it took a heart attack to keep me away this year.

We have two sons, both of whom were active in the FFA. Both were state officers and both were awarded the American Farmer Degree. Since our older son first started in the FFA, I have been very much interested, for I feel it is the best organization for farm youth that can be planned. And the magazine is one of the important parts of the organization. It is good to feel that it is improving with each issue, and it certainly is doing just that!

J. L. Willis

Nashville, Tennessee

I think *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine is a superlative publication. I anxiously anticipate each issue. I missed the current issue and had begun to wonder if it had been lost in the mail. However, while checking a previous edition, I noticed that my subscription has expired and I sure miss it.

Please renew it for five years and bill me accordingly. Your consideration of this request will be deeply appreciated.

Dennis L. Joyner, Jr.

Woodson, Texas

I appreciate your sending me *The National FUTURE FARMER* magazine. It contains many interesting articles, all of which I enjoy reading. You might include in the next issue something about hogs. I have a Hampshire hog for my Future Farmer project and would like to know more about them, since this is my first experience with hogs. I'm interested in all farm animals and have enjoyed each issue of the magazine I've received.

Wayne Hurford

Ready for any farm job! It's a rugged, easy-handling International Truck with platform body, from the world's most complete truck line.

They think of everything when they design International Trucks. *Style?* Sure. *Convenience,* too. For instance: a Sweep-Around windshield that's the largest on any pickup... yet not in your way as you get in and out.

A roomier ride—with a better view of the road! International's all-truck power gives you fast getaway with welcome gas savings. See your International Dealer.

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY, CHICAGO
Motor Trucks • Crawler Tractors
Construction Equipment • McCormick® Farm Equipment and Farmall® Tractors

INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS cost least to own!

FOR ALL OFFICIAL

FFA MERCHANDISE

See your chapter catalogue

FUTURE FARMERS

SUPPLY SERVICE

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Alexandria, Va.

Owned and operated by the Future Farmers of America.

Looking Ahead

VO-AG TRAINING BRINGS RESULTS

Students of vocational agriculture are becoming some of the better farmers in the United States today, according to a recent study by Iowa State College. Results show that these fellows become established in farming faster, operate larger farms, and average $1,500 more gross income per year than comparable high school graduates who did not have the benefit of vo-ag training. Vo-ag students still in school should take note of these facts. The training and experience you are receiving now will mean dollars in your pocket, as well as a better standard of living for you and your family in the farming years ahead.

NEWS FOR THE CATTLEMAN

You may soon be hearing quite a bit about a new system of identifying cattle. Based on blood types, the system is rapidly being developed by USDA in co-operation with several experiment stations, a veterinary college, as well as several foreign laboratories. Cattle blood types are far more numerous than human types, which makes it practically impossible for any two animals (identical twins excepted) to have exactly the same type. Once an animal's blood is typed and recorded, it presents a foolproof means of identification. While this system is relatively new to the cattle industry, it is already in use at the University of California School of Veterinary Medicine. Under an agreement with the Purebred Cattle Association, all bulls used in artificial breeding in the United States are typed at the school.

FERTILIZERS AID IN CONTROLLING INSECTS

Nitrogen fertilizers may be used in the future to control some kinds of insects. In some cases, heavy nitrogen treatment made plant foliage toxic or repellent to certain insects in tests conducted by the University of Wisconsin. Red pine seedlings receiving the treatment did not fall prey to the red pine sawfly larvae. Seedlings which did not get the nitrogen lost all leaves to the insects. While the reasons for the lack of insect damage on the fertilized plants are still under study, it is believed that an accumulation of ammonia or amino acids may have caused the foliage to be distasteful to the insects.

LOOK OUT FOR HOG CHOLERA

There has been a gradual drop in the number of pigs vaccinated against hog cholera during the past few years. Swine breeders and farm organizations are concerned about this downtrend because they fear that a continued decline in vaccinations and vaccine production might leave the industry without enough hog cholera serum to combat an extensive outbreak of the disease, should one occur.

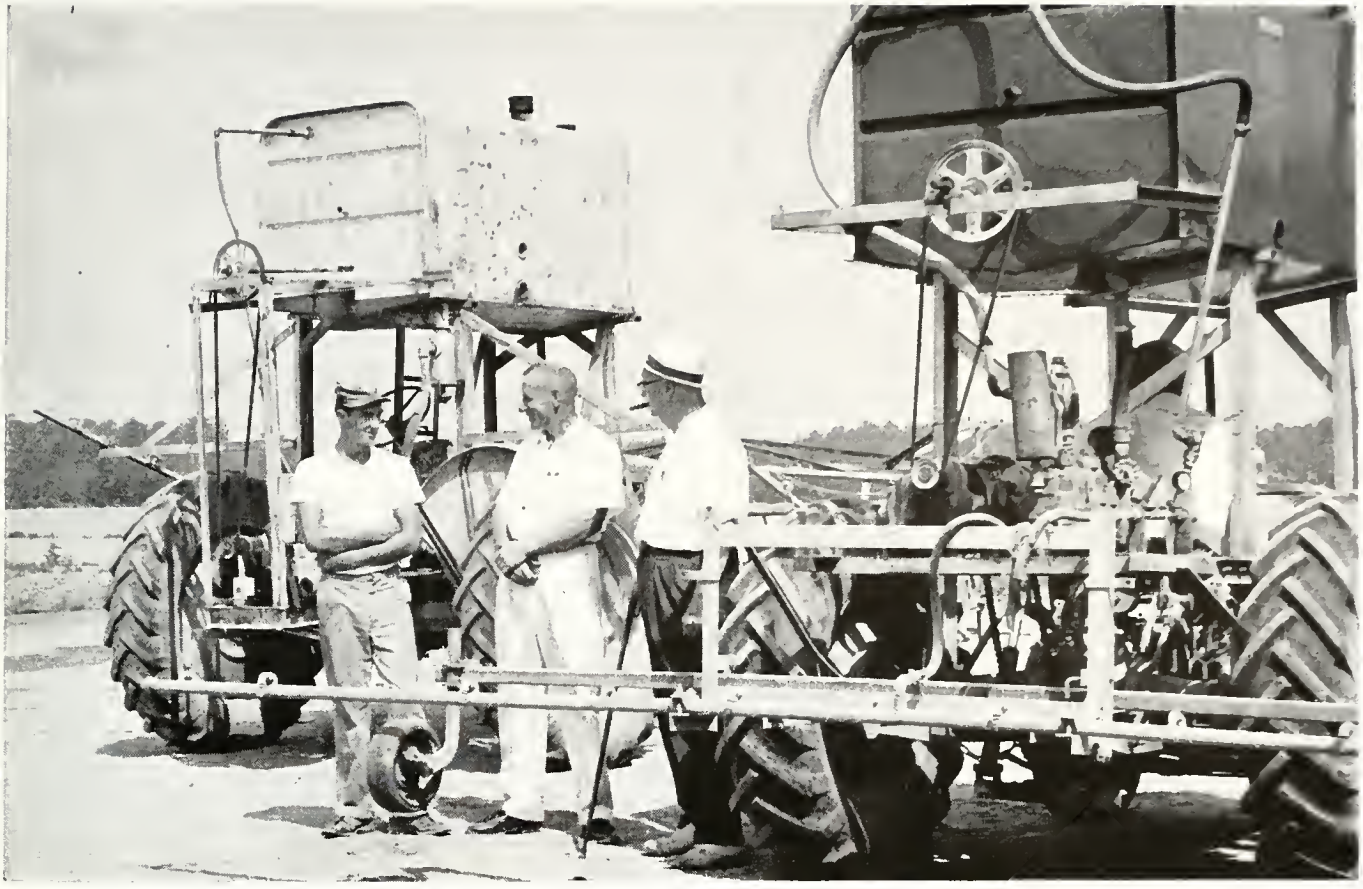
AUTOMATION IN DAIRY FARMING

The benefits of pipeline milking systems and bulk milk cooling tanks are not limited to only the big dairy farms. This equipment saves labor and results in higher quality milk even on moderate-sized dairy operations, according to a study made by S. J. Brannen of the Georgia Experiment Station. The study shows bulk handling to have these advantages: More economical than can handling for any farm producing above 30 gallons of milk per day; milk quality is considerably higher; milk losses due to spillage and stickage were reduced by about 6 to 8 cents per 100 pounds; and hauling costs were found to be lower because of larger pay loads and pickup every day. Pipeline milking systems were found to be more economical on any farm with 25 or more cows because four minutes of labor per cow were saved each day. Results of the study show that the labor saved would pay for the milker equipment in an average of three years.

THINGS TO WATCH

Hogs. Market prices for hogs are expected to decline beginning in late summer and reach a low around November 1. USDA estimates point to $15 hogs when the big volume is marketed around that date.

Cattle. Fat cattle prices this fall will probably range somewhat lower than had been expected earlier this year. Sort out finished cattle and ship, rather than waiting for a possible price upswing



FARM-MADE SPRAYERS HAVE UNIQUE ADVANTAGES

These sprayers, mounted in tractors, were designed by John Van Kesteren, Jr., who conducts an 800-acre truck farm operation near Onancock, Va.

Each self-contained unit tracks where it is driven, preventing damage to plants at row ends. Tractors are used for other work without dismantling the sprayers, saving time and money. And the chain-driven pump eliminates the use of a universal. Also, the 500-gallon overhead tank provides sun-shade for the driver!

Shown left to right are Mr. Van Kesteren's son, John, Mr. Van Kesteren and Texaco Distributor H. C. Watson. For 20 years the latter has supplied Texaco products to owner Van Kesteren, who agrees with farmers everywhere that *it pays to farm with Texaco.*

THEY LIKE MARFAK! Texaco Marfak lubricant is best for farm machinery because it won't drip out, wash out, dry out or cake up. In agreement are farmers J. C. Blalock (standing), J. D. Lowman (on tractor), Dodge Dealer Mack Carter (lower left) and Texaco Consignee R. E. Stafford, all of the Mershan-Waycross, Ga., area.

GEORGE SCHOEDER (on tractor) of the Krier Preserving Co., Belgium, Wis., gets a delivery of Havoline Motor Oil from Texaco Distributor Jack Wilson. 17 vegetables are canned by Krier. Havoline is the preferred motor oil here for tractors and trucks because it wear-proofs engines, prolongs their life.

IN ALL 48 STATES—You'll find Texaco Dealers with top-octane Texaco Sky Chief Su-preme gasoline supercharged with Petrox for instant power, and famous Fire Chief gasoline at regular price. Also Havoline Motor Oil and Marfak lubricant. These top-quality Texaco products have won acceptance with motorists everywhere.

On farm and highway it pays to use

TEXACO PRODUCTS

Texaco Products are also distributed in Canada, Latin America, and Afr.ca.

TEXACO

THE TEXAS COMPANY

Family Farm, 1958

These modern farm buildings are headquarters for a practical business with a per-worker investment larger than that of many big industrial corporations. The efficient land management that can establish and maintain such a successful business operation is becoming more and more common in farming everywhere.

There was a time when the farmer expanded his production by buying more land. In recent years, the investment in management and machinery, modern buildings, new crop varieties and better livestock has increased far faster than the investment in acreage accumulation.

One of the biggest improvements in efficient land management has been the rapid increase in the use of fertilizer. Farmers are now using more than three times as much fertilizer as they used prior to World War II. The modern way to expand farm production is to use more fertilizer rather than to buy more land.

Alert, progressive farmers are now producing two, four, and sometimes ten times the average per-acre yield, by using a much heavier application of fertilizer than the average. Profits multiply much faster than yields, because the only extra cost for the extra yields is fertilizer and harvesting.

The use of nitrogen has been increasing at a faster rate than the use of other plant foods. This is evidenced by the upward trend in high-nitrogen fertilizers and supplemental nitrogen materials. Most crops require more nitrogen than any other plant food. Nitrogen is the *growth element* in fertilizers—the plant food that produces vigorous, healthy, green growth and abundant yields.

In addition to producing more profitable yields, nitrogen grows more crop residues, such as sod, stalks and roots. And nitrogen helps soil microbes convert these residues into soil-enriching humus which improves aeration and water-holding ability as well as capacity to produce.

Modern farming with plenty of nitrogen, in a well-balanced fertilizer program, enriches the soil while it produces high yields and income to build family farms such as that pictured above.

Nitrogen Division, Allied Chemical, is America's leading producer of nitrogen. ARCADIAN® Nitrogen is supplied in a complete line of liquid and dry nitrogen products for use in manufacturing mixed fertilizers and for direct application to the soil.

NITROGEN DIVISION
40 RECTOR STREET
NEW YORK 6, N.Y.

Allied Chemical

Grow with Arcadian® Nitrogen

Don was a full-fledged farmer when he turned 15. But his mother wanted him to finish school, so he obliged her.

This inlet structure was built at end of a former gully. Now a seeded waterway, the area is typical of Don's farm.

"Flood control was another big problem. Our first operation cut the total length of a winding river which threatened to flood both pasture and crop land. Straightening this small river also netted several additional workable acres," Don points out.

"We put money in the bank by clearing our river bottom and filling a worthless bayou. This measure gave us an extra 58 acres of good crop land which are now handled with a tile drainage system.

"Soil tests told us which fertilizers to use in rotation planning. I count on producing plenty of hay and pasture each year for soil improvement and livestock feed. In addition to cattle, my enterprises include about 50 swine a

Don Pedersen SUPER SOIL BUILDER

ESTABLISHED FARMERS around Lake City, Iowa, often go to eighteen-year-old Don Pedersen for advice on soil conservation.

Most of them have watched and assisted this lanky youth apply his craftsmanship to the family farm. They helped because Don became a full-fledged farmer at 15. His dad died in 1954, but Don's FFA training convinced him that no job was too tough to tackle.

He didn't mind assuming responsibility for the 260-acre farm while only a high school sophomore. By continuing the program his father had started with government technicians, Don has increased the farm's value by $200 an acre.

That's one reason he's 1957 champion in the national FFA Soil and Water Management Division! Don received the National Foundation's award in that field at the National FFA Convention in Kansas City last year.

Don says he can still recall a hilly farm his father purchased in the spring of 1949. "The homestead was in good condition, but all other buildings needed repair.

"Some main waterways were six feet deep and none of them could be crossed with a tractor. The farm showed no evidence of a previous crop rotation plan nor any of the benefits usually associated with contour farming," Don remembers.

The Pedersens noted that heavy row cropping had been practiced in the past and made immediate plans to supplement the farm's production with livestock.

Neither Don nor his mother is likely to forget all the time and energy invested on their farmstead. "A part of our life is tied to this farm with Don as its operator," she admits.

"I'm not a super soil savior," Don confesses, "but I believe in sound management practices and realize that a certain amount of work is required before they can be properly applied.

"We started our program by installing running water in the buildings. Then came the pressing problem of those deep waterways. We plowed them in before seeding with brome, alfalfa, and oats. Manure was applied to insure good grass growth and the soil was rolled to prevent excessive washing," he says.

"We handled our washboarded hills by plowing on the level and grass seeding heavily. But we still had a big job of weed eradication and control before crops could make headway.

year and over 300 layers," summarizes the seasoned youngster.

Don says the secret of his success is transforming bottom land pastures to fertile cropland, while producing his hay and grazing on rougher soil.

As a full-time farmer Don intends to expand his beef herd, plan an adaptable row cropping project and continue a well-organized conservation program.

How will he do it? His current plans are simple. Don says he'll just continue working closely with the Calhoun County Soil Conservation Service and consulting with his ag teacher Rudolph Engstrom for technical advice.

"Then I'll put their suggestions into practice as soon as possible," explains the young farmer.

Don appreciates outside help although he needs it less each day. He's already able to foresee many of his farm problems and take corrective action of his own. His confidence is increasing with added experience.

Amiable Don owns a host of farm machinery in partnership with his mother, but has his own tractor, terrace blade, dirt scoop, and weeder.

He has already started to repay neighbors for the help given immediately after his father's death. Friends now seek his advice or work on soil management principles, and he is glad to help them.

As chairman of the FFA wildlife program committee, Don helped establish a community wildlife reserve. On his own farm, he stocked a gravel pit with fish and invites friends to bring hook, line, and sinker any time.

To prospective farmers, Don has this to say: "Save your soil now and it will save you later."

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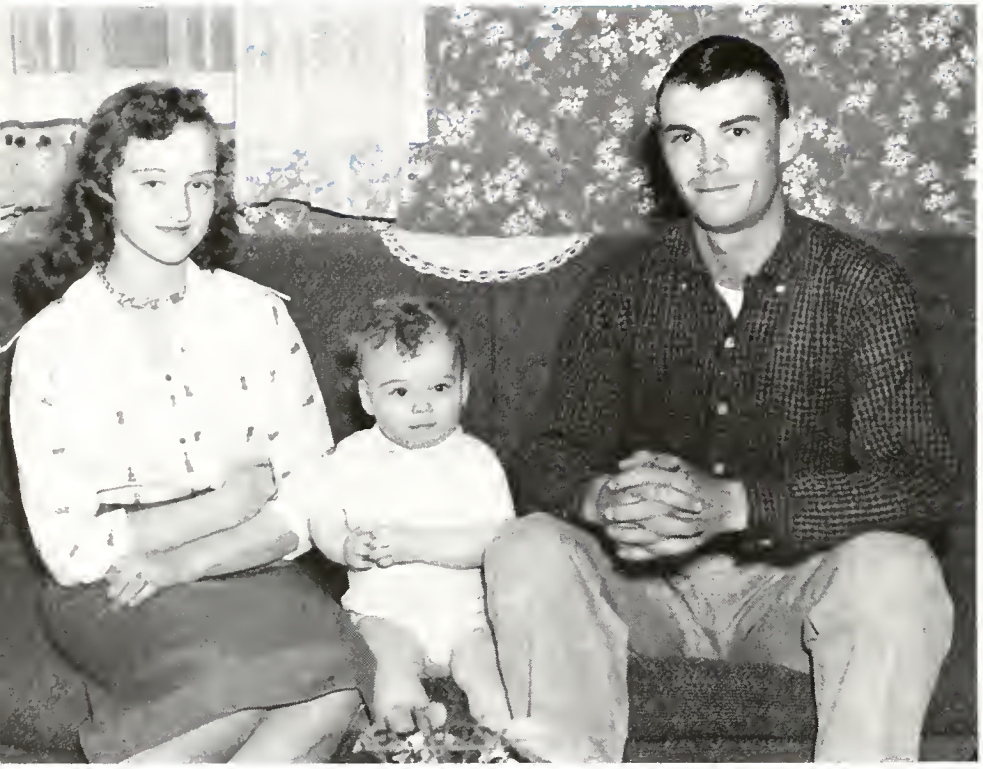
He Learned by Doing

By Joe Dan Boyd

This Kentucky farm boy held great promise as a farmer, but his speaking ability was at rock bottom.



Eugene and Sue Ann are proud of their family farm life. Both would like for their children to grow up in the country.

EUGENE HAYNES used to skip school when he was due for an oral class presentation.

He didn't like to cut classes, he was just scared. Eugene didn't feel adequate to stand before a group—not even his friends—to present an oral report. So he stayed home on those occasions.

But FFA training made a big difference. Vo-ag teachers William Judge and J. P. Truitt of the Lafayette Bryan Station Chapter at Lexington, Kentucky, say, "It was amazing to watch the change in that boy. He began developing into a natural leader and an effective speaker after a single year of Future Farmer training."

Haynes admits it was no overnight transition. "Actually I didn't realize there was a change in the making," he recalls, "but something kept growing inside me until I began to enjoy expressing myself before a group.

"It must have been Mr. Judge's constant encouragement. He and Mr. Truitt were always asking me to participate in public events. Pretty soon it seemed the natural thing to do," he concludes.

Eugene's first success came as a member of the chapter parliamentary procedure team. Then came election to chapter secretarial duties and later vice president of the organization. During his FFA career, the once timid youngster competed in 41 chapter contests and 12 district meets. He also entered 10 state contests.

He got his share of the winnings, too. Haynes singles out three highlights of his career: the Kentucky Farm Mechanics Award, State Farmer Degree, and a 1957 American Farmer Degree.

Today, at 22, Eugene is married and is the father of a two-year-old son. He serves as vice president of the local Young Farmer organization and is a respected community and agricultural leader.

"Get one thing straight, however," Eugene tells the world, "I've never been one little bit bashful about farming."

Good management is essential for sheepmen. Haynes has upped his lamb production per ewe 22 percent.

No one had to cultivate that interest for him. Eugene remembers when he liked to do all the farm chores before his father's alarm clock rang. "I got a kick out of surprising him by having them finished when he headed for the barn although I was only eight years old," Eugene relates.

Outdoor life and farm work have been a part of Eugene's life for as long as

Beef cattle entered Eugene's plans for expansion after high school. His herd size has been doubled since that time.

he can remember. The young family man says the happiest day of his life came when he rented the 236-acre farm which he now operates.

"It was like 'coming of age' or something," Eugene fondly recalls. Today, he manages the farm with the seasoned determination and stick-to-itiveness of a past master.

Supervised farming activities provided a gradual, natural way for him to grow into farming. Starting with tobacco, hogs, and sheep, Eugene made his debut into the agricultural world. It paid off with a healthy $600 labor income.

Pasture improvement seemed a logical step in the right direction for his style of farming, so the young Future Farmer incorporated that into his project program. Soon this measure began paying dividends in the form of more and better feed for his sheep.

Progress in farming is not always noted by dollars and cents. Sometimes permanent improvements are the only tangible rewards. But in the case of beginning farmer, Eugene Haynes, both of these assets began to take shape.

With better soil management and pasture practices, Eugene watched labor income increase from year to year. During his senior year the figure topped $2,000.

That called for some sort of celebration. So Eugene celebrated by doubling his efforts. He became a full-time farmer. Adding 30 head of beef cattle, a 25-acre hay crop, and planting five acres of fescue seed were the initial indications of Eugene's plans for a permanent profession. Then he expanded all plans for the tobacco, sheep, corn, and pasture enterprises which had characterized his steady rise to farming success.

Assuming all management responsibility, young Haynes began to farm on a rental agreement with a local land owner. His total out-of-school labor income is more than $8,000. He owns nearly $4,000 worth of farm equipment and machinery, while his net worth is close to $11,000. At the time of his application for the American Farmer Degree, Eugene expected to net about $8,000 during his next full crop year.

That expected income was based on indications of 125 head of sheep, 53 beef cattle, 10 acres of corn, 5 acres of fescue, 30 acres hay, 14 acres of tobacco, and 4 acres barley and bluegrass.

Some wondered if young Haynes wasn't biting off more than he could chew. Success doesn't always come easily in farming and the work is seldom easy. Such were the problems facing him.

Evidently they didn't bother him. Since his entry into full-time farming, Eugene has increased corn yields over 50 percent, doubled his pasture's carrying capacity, increased silage yields from 12 to nearly 20 tons and has upped by 22 percent the average pounds of lamb per ewe reared in his flock.

Early financing didn't come easily. Profits from his first tobacco crop was invested in sheep. The next year all his tobacco profits went for a tractor while sheep returns were plowed back into more sheep. Custom farm work paid additional and miscellaneous living expenses.

While his record is amazing, Eugene's accomplishments have not surprised everyone. Four people always knew he'd make good—his parents and his two vocational agriculture teachers.

Eugene says, "Advice and encouragement from these four people have meant more to my wife and me than any other single thing. I'm thankful for these four wonderful people."

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Mechanization is one of Haynes' most effective keys to modern farming progress. Equipment investment is $4,000.

Sheep have always figured in Eugene's farm plans, but in 1954 he began to expand and improve. Now has 125 head.

Photo courtesy Midland Cooperator.

Judy Merritt offers pointers to Minnesota's FFA Star Dairy Farmer, Dale Besemer, after defeating him in a milking contest. She is the State's Princess Kay of the Milky Way.

photo roundup

Top FFA family of Reardon, Washington, the Frank Schultzes! Father is honorary chapter farmer; mother is FFA banquet head, sons are State Farmers. Each boy has been chapter president.

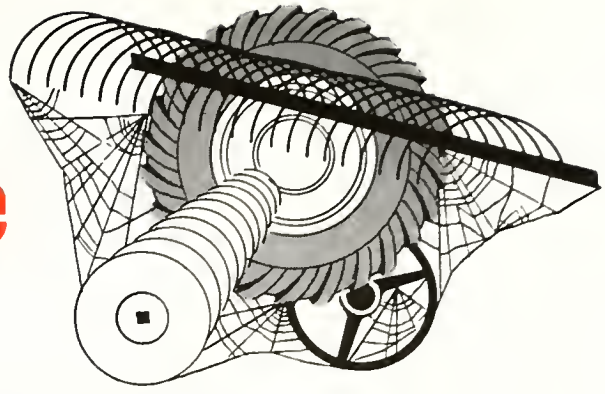
Future Farmers at Cedar Bluff, Alabama, pitched in last year to aid work-laden farmers. They helped paint tractors, sharpened tools, repaired machinery, built several useful farm articles.

George Ruis, Future Farmer from Plant City, Florida, poses with grand champion steer at State Fair. Howard Johnson Restaurant bought for $3.85 a lb. to set a new record price for the fair.

Bill McDowell accepts rare gavel from Henry Adams for Texas' Area V FFA Association. It is carved from wood of magnolia tree growing in yard of Congressman Dudley Hughes, a co-author of the 1917 bill which established vocational agriculture.

The National FUTURE FARMER will pay $5 for each picture used for Photo Roundup. Send pictures with complete information to The National FUTURE FARMER, P. O. Box 29, Alexandria, Virginia.

Farming in the Future



By Chuck Fritz

A Future Farmer predicts what's ahead for agriculture

HOW WILL FARMING operations be performed in the future? Will there be another mechanical revolution, or have we reached a peak in achievement?

I have my own thoughts about tomorrow's agricultural machines and operations. It doesn't seem likely that farmers will ever sit in an easy chair and watch robot-controlled tractors perform all the work. Why? For several reasons. First, the necessary mechanical brain would cost too much. Second, such a system would be too slow. Even if this setup allowed planting and cultivating 30 or 40 rows simultaneously, it would be too slow. Instead, farmers will be able to plant entire oat and corn crops all in the space of a minute.

Cost again enters the picture. The multi-row system would be quite expensive, and when coupled with the mechanical brain of a robot operator, would be more than prohibitive. Replacement would be another problem and a costly one.

So, I feel sure farmers will be planting entire crops in one operation. This sounds impossible now, but I believe it will be done. How? Look at it this way. Tractors are on the way out; they will have no place in tomorrow's agriculture. Row cropping will also be outdated in atom-age agriculture. All crops will be broadcast like oats and barley.

Another radical change! I don't believe soil will be broken at any time during the year. It won't be plowed, disced, or cultivated; a spray chemical will prepare land for planting and will also loosen soil, allowing seed to sink into the ground.

Then the problem of field work without tractors. It's a good question, but I think I have the answer. Manufacturers won't be out of work, for huge underground piping systems will replace tractors. They will be noncorrosive structures, about eight inches in diameter and spaced 200 feet apart. They will be buried about one foot deep. Sprayer nozzles, seed nozzles, and harvest ports will adorn these pipes.

This will be economical in the long run. Each pipe will handle all spraying, planting, irrigating, and harvesting for a specific area; and they will last from 20 years to a lifetime. Therefore, cost will be considerably less than present-day type machinery.

For clarity, I'll start with spring planting and carry a typical crop through harvest, step by step. After the modern farmer of tomorrow prepares his soil for planting, he will press a button which activates a blower. This blower will force seed through the underground pipes by tremendous pressure and they will later be blown onto the field through the revolving seed nozzles.

Terrific air pressure will insure even seed distribution by blowing them out to a diameter of 400 feet from each nozzle.

Where does the economy come in? All this does sound a little complicated and perhaps expensive. But solar energy will power the blower and operating costs will be limited to upkeep and depreciation. By changing the angle of the fins, this type blower can be converted into a pump which will also spray and irrigate. That's economy plus!

Weeds will be exterminated before planting with another spray chemical and there will be no erosion problem. Improved weather forecasting will allow farmers to use another chemical before rains which will make the soil firm to prevent washing.

Gauges will keep the farmer informed concerning moisture conditions; allowing him to make advance irrigation plans. A special chemical will be available for disposing of excess moisture. This process should make for fantastic yields! Plant food needs will also be measured by gauges and improved technology will furnish a liquid plant food to meet the needs indicated.

Harvesting will be the most revolutionary process of all. Special electromagnetic fluids applied to grain will allow magnets attached to the harvest ports to attract the crop. Fluid will cling only to seed due to chemical composition; thus grain will be pulled into the ports where the blower will be reversed to carry it to a bin or dryer. By activating only one electromagnet at a time, waste will be minimized. No grain will be lost between the magnetic fields. Corn and legumes will also be farmed in this manner.

I include legumes because they will eventually be hybridized to such a state that very weak mature stocks will result. Therefore, the weak stocks will be broken by the magnetic field and harvested easily. Clogging will be minimized by using a low magnetic attraction first for close materials and a stronger one for the remainder.

That completes a full year's field work cycle. It's a completely push button agriculture and is economical, fast, efficient, and "easy on Paw."

I realize that farming won't be exactly like this. But since no one does know just what is in store, I thought I'd get in my two cents worth before the rush starts.

I do know that tomorrow's farming methods will seem just as revolutionary to us as tractors would have looked to my great-grandfather when he broke the prairie with oxen. I also confidently predict that every farmer who expects to make a profit will be forced to keep in close contact with technological changes of the times. We are living in an atomic age. Industry, business, and agriculture must realize that drastic changes are inevitable. We must accept these changes if we are to provide for our ever-expanding nation.

Chuck has "broken the ice" for us. Now let us hear from you. What is your opinion of agriculture in the future? We'd appreciate hearing what you think.—Ed.

YOU CAN FARM

Bulk tank on Charles' dairy farm is symbol of progress.

Here's living proof that determination is all you really need

CHARLES DORMAN didn't set out to accomplish wonders. He wasn't even aiming for the impossible. As an eighth grader at the Forest Grove, Oregon, public schools, this youngster wanted only enough money to buy a certain dairy animal he'd been admiring. The thought of becoming his state's Star Farmer never occurred to him.

Dorman began saving his money—hard-earned, strawberry-picking wages. And one day he came home leading his animal to the dairy farm he hoped to create on the Dorman's two-and-a-half-acre town lot residence. And it isn't easy to tell a boy he can't do something when his heart is set on doing it. At least that's the verdict of Mrs. Narcisse Dorman. She began encouraging Charles' milking operation and so did the vocational agriculture teacher when the Forest Grove youth entered high school.

Maybe that's the key to his success—encouragement and determination. But whatever the cause, Charles' first-year profits enabled him to buy a registered Jersey. Later he was awarded another registered animal from a chapter Jersey chain.

"That did it," Charles admits proudly, "I decided to become a farmer in my own right. Business was too good to quit at that point anyway. My $300 labor income from Green Hand projects wasn't exactly a flying start toward a farming career, but it was a long way from a disappointment."

Improvement was already on the way, however. Labor income didn't increase much during Charles' first chapter farmer year—it went up to $400—but his project scope broadened. He carried four calves, two cows, one gilt, plus a small pasture program that year.

Charles knew he was missing out on one cardinal necessity of an efficient dairyman. He wasn't producing enough of his own feed. He was already looking around for land when his parents bought a 30-acre tract of farm land near Forest Grove in 1952. Charles promptly rented it and posted 28 acres of pasture and grain projects during his junior year. Labor income was over $900.

Efficiency and expansion began to pay for Charles as his senior year unfurled. He was marketing about 1,000 broilers every nine weeks while also milking eight dairy cows. Four young calves promised a brighter day in the

Grain crops such as this wheat field and irrigated pastures have supplemented Dorman's dairying from the start.

Dorman believes money saved is money earned. Crop storage on farm cuts his cost and utilizes all farm buildings.

Dorman's first Jersey is at left. She produced 8,850 pounds in 354 days. Right, three-time county fair champion.

dairy business and 10 acres of irrigated pasture, plus nearly 20 acres of grain, supplemented that basic enterprise.

Then it happened; 1954 was a big year for Charles Dorman. Big enough for the former city resident to be named Oregon's most outstanding winner of the State Farmer Degree, with $2,250 labor income. Leadership activities also count in winning such an honor and Charles wasn't lacking in that department. He served as student council member; FFA secretary and president; and was champion Jersey showman at the Oregon State Fair.

The versatile youth also participated in Boys Club activities, basketball, track, judging contests, and was a member of his chapter parliamentary procedure team.

Graduation from high school meant only one thing to this agriculture-minded student—full-time farming. Charles' first thought was for additional land. He rented 51 acres for more pasture and added a barley cash crop. Then came an expansion of the dairy and poultry enterprises. By spring of 1955, the young farmer was on a Grade A production schedule and had built a silo as a hedge against future operating costs.

Diversification was a principle Charles learned from his Advisor, George Keeney. So he applied it by adding sheep to his program in 1956—nine head to utilize hill pasture which was inconvenient for dairy animals. Conversion of the broiler program to an efficient layer enterprise completed the changes in Dorman's setup.

But the 22-year-old farmer needed more land. He purchased 64 acres of rich bottom land in 1956 for additional expansion. Labor income that year was $4,500. Then came plans for an American Farmer Degree.

At the time of his application, Charles listed his total in and out of school labor income at $12,000 and his net worth was nearly $15,000. By then, his dairy project consisted of 14 dairy cows, four bred heifers, 10 calves, and one bull. As Oregon's top applicant for 1956-57 American Farmer honors, Charles feels that one portion of his goal is already accomplished—he's successfully established in farming.

Now he looks to the future! This purposeful young farmer plans on building a cattle loafing shed while gradually increasing his herd to 30 high-producing Jerseys. He plans on initiating a well-planned set of conservation and management practices on his farm while deciding where to start his next expansion program. He intends for the land to support both himself and his mother, for Charles' father did not live to see him become a full-time farmer.

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A Message from Your President

Howard Downing
National
President

IT'S almost convention time again. Future Farmers across the nation are already planning the big trip to Kansas City, Missouri, for the 1958 National Convention October 13-16. Indications point to a colorful and educational program this year; one you'll really enjoy discussing in chapter meetings back home.

We'll initiate a new registration system this year. The plan was developed by your National Board of Trustees in order to eliminate crowding and long lines at the registration booths. Here are the main features:

ADVANCE REGISTRATION CARDS—will be mailed upon order to state supervisors who will supply chapter advisors. All members except American Farmer candidates and the two official state delegates must obtain signatures of parents, school officials, and vo-ag teachers. Cards must be completed in advance. Local advisors and state staff members may obtain and complete their registration cards at the convention if desired.

GROUP REGISTRATION ONLY—No group smaller than a chapter delegation can be processed under the system. *Members may not register individually.* Best results will be obtained by the adult in charge registering entire states or areas of states at one time. Registration begins at 8:30 a. m. Monday, October 13.

INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS—will be issued to the responsible adult registering each delegation. He will sign and distribute them to the group. Hang on to the ID cards, they are official convention identification and will replace the metal buttons previously used.

FOUNDATION DONORS—will register at a special booth where cards designed for them will be available. Donor representatives will receive identification badges.

REMEMBER—local advisors, state education staff members, and Future Farmers will use the same type registration cards. However, the card's reverse side is applicable only to FFA members. All state orders for cards will be filled about August 1.

Coaches of official state FFA judging teams must also list team members for each contest in a separate registration beginning at 9:00 a. m., Tuesday, October 14.

Corn Fights Polio

FUTURE FARMERS in Staples, Minnesota, were first in their state to put corn on the battlefield against polio.

Five successful "Corn for Polio" drives were enough to convince them that gleaning discarded corn from local farms pays off tremendously as a community service project.

State Reporter Gerald Adamek of Cushing says, "The beauty of this program is its simplicity. FFA members do not ask for donations. Instead they glean spilled corn which would otherwise be wasted. Profits go into local polio campaigns."

FFA members transfer their "corn for polio" from small to large trucks.

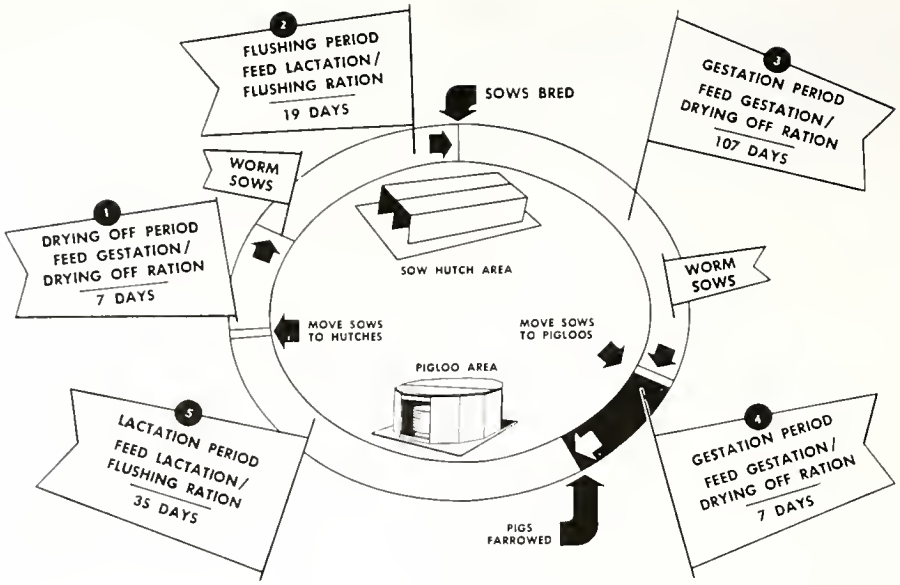
Chapters all over the State began to follow suit soon after the first Staples drive. Now it's an annual affair with newspaper, radio, and TV publicity.

The five annual drives at Staples have netted nearly $1,400 for the fight against polio. Emphasis has shifted recently from polio treatment to prevention of the disease. Proceeds from their last drive were used to supply polio vaccine for children whose parents could not have otherwise afforded the shots.

Adamek says the drive netted over $300—enough to immunize about 130 boys and girls free.

Local businessmen were anxious to help. They loaned trucks for hauling the corn and some volunteered their time and labor. School officials declared participants free of school duties during the day-long drive.

Staples chapter advisors William Olson and William Guelker feel their members are fulfilling the purposes of the FFA motto by, "Living to Serve."



Here's the 175-day hog-raising timetable utilized in this new system.

timetable for hog raising

This system puts hog raising on a rigid schedule. It's full of deadlines and figures, but it cuts labor, reduces disease, and eliminates crushing.

HERE'S a puzzle for you! Ever wonder why an FFA member can often top his dad's breeding or market hog entries at show time even though both feed the same ration.

H. R. Patton of Nutrena Mills says the answer is simple. "In such instances, Future Farmers have been working WITH NATURE while their fathers did the opposite." How? He points up the necessity of separating swine projects from the farm herd in order to keep accurate vocational agriculture records, and cites this isolation principle as an "unconscious trump card" in the FFA members' management program.

Still not clear? Here are the details: Confining large numbers of hogs in small areas has always resulted in high disease losses. Often enough to wipe the producer out of business. Department of Agriculture figures state that 23 percent of the country's pigs die before weaning age and 36 percent die before marketing age. Disease and crushing are the two biggest pig killers.

But a Future Farmer's isolated project is far less susceptible to either. It also benefits from nature's antibody protection. Isolated sows develop a surprisingly effective antibody defense against disease—a protection which is passed through their milk to offspring.

These principles are employed in a new hog-raising system developed by Nutrena Mills. Tests conducted in Iowa, Minnesota, California, and Wisconsin produced 5,000 animals under this system with less than two percent crushing loss and almost no disease casualties. And labor for producing 900 hogs annually was cut by half. Spaced eight feet apart for added disease protection, the "cave-like farrowing units" called Pigloos allow sows individual privacy and utilize their natural desire to hide while farrowing. Electricity provides necessary warmth and guard rails prevent crushing.

Sows are to enter the unit one week before farrowing and remain until litters are 35 days old. Producers should then move sows to breeding hutches; allowing pigs to remain in the farrowing units during the first four days of weaning. Three visits from the farmer is enough for the entire five-week period.

Pre-fabricated units are sold commercially at $150 each. Dealers say total cost of entering the business from scratch with a 60-sow herd under their new system is about $11,000. But costs vary throughout the country and Future Farmers can save considerable money by building their own units from scrap lumber. Plans are available for supplemental hutches. A complete unit consists of 16 farrowing units; three breeding hutches; a gilt replacement hutch; one boar hutch and four finishing hutches. That will accommodate a 60-sow herd; divided into three groups of 20. What's the space secret? Scheduling six and one fourth farrowings yearly by selecting the groups according to reproductive cycles. Each group of 20 should be bred at one time.

Normal swine gestation period is 110-116 days. This allows two and one third farrowings per sow annually. The second group is bred 56 days after the first—and the cycle continues indefinitely. Here's how the new system could be used by Future Farmers who wish to enter the hog business.

A pigloo provides isolated birth unit. Note safety guard rails and heat lamp.

FRESHMAN YEAR—Start with three sows, one boar and a single farrowing unit such as those described.

SOPHOMORE YEAR—Add six bred gilts or sows to potential herd by selection or purchase. Add two farrowing units and one section of finishing hutch.

JUNIOR YEAR—Add 15 gilts, one boar, and five farrowing units. Also add second section of finishing hutches for market and breeding stock.

SENIOR YEAR—Add 24 sows, a third boar, final eight farrowing units, and remaining hutches.

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For more information, send for free booklet offered in "Free for the Asking" column on page 34.

New Sheffield "100" Barbed Wire is up to 20% STRONGER*

...yet easy to handle in the field!

*tests up to 20% stronger than ordinary 12½-gauge barbed wire

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Write for FREE literature about Sheffield Fence

That's right! With the first major advance in barbed wire in 75 years, Sheffield brings you a wire that is not only stronger, but remarkably easy to handle, stretch and string. The new special formula steel takes a better galvanizing bond, too. Gives better protection against rust and corrosion. Longer fence life.

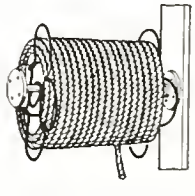
Extra strong reels... won't collapse

"Off-brand" barbed wire of unknown origin, quality and durability often comes on reels that collapse or fall apart in use. Result: a tangled mess that fouls up fencing and kills time.

Sheffield reels are made to stand up under roughest handling. Keep their shape so well you can use them for other purposes after the barbed wire is off. For example...

Look what you can do with empty Sheffield "100" reels

Make this FLOWER STAND! Write for FREE PLANS



Use empty reel as handy, sturdy ROPE CADDY

Whatever your fence need, insist on Sheffield Fence. Made by neighbors of yours—steel makers to Mid-America since 1888. A name you know and trust. For the finest in barbed wire, woven wire and other fence and farm needs, see your Sheffield dealer.

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BOATING CAN BE SAFE

Don't panic! Wooden boats won't sink with outboard motors if an occupant balances motor weight at opposite end, another steadies bow.

THEIR SMALL BOAT had only a tiny leak when it started out. So what if there were off-shore winds. It was calm here at shore; besides they could always ride out of it; after all they had a 25-horsepower motor which was more than this boat needed.

A couple hours later, when offshore winds roughened the lake, the four fisherman were in real trouble. They panicked. Shoving the oversized motor to full speed, they aimed for the nearest shoreline, which meant riding the waves crosswise—a foolish and dangerous move.

The boat swamped. They had only two life preservers, but they all started to swim towards shore. One of the boys drowned.

Ignoring a half dozen cardinal rules of boating, the tragedy was invited. No boat should be taken out with any kind of leak. An oversized motor is asking for trouble; it can tip your boat. Carrying less life preservers than the number of occupants is careless. Riding the waves crosswise is poor seamanship.

But, with all these faults, death could have been avoided with a little knowledge of boat and water safety rules. If the two boys who had life preservers had gone over the side, the other two could have sat in the half-submerged row boat and been towed to shore by the swimmers.

Small boat accidents take about 1,300 lives each year in Canada and the U. S., or almost one-fifth of all drownings. And oddly enough about 90 percent of the victims are men or boys. The supposedly careful 25 to 44-year-old group accounts for as many deaths as the reckless 15 to 24 group.

However, with few other sports can accidents be so surely and completely avoided by simple precautions. Boating accidents occur because people carelessly wander too near dams or waterfalls, ignore storm warnings, overload the boat, tolerate poor motor performance, or just downright leaks.

It is not "chicken" to consider all the safety angles when boating. It is only the beginner who neglects boating etiquette and care. The veteran seaman knows all the precautions by heart and follows them religiously. He has only scorn for those smart alecks who not only risk their own, but more tragically, other innocent lives.

Here, then, are the safety precautions which can cut boating accidents to a minimum.

Condition of the Boat

The boat should always be checked for leaks and other defects before leaving shore. If your boat is small, be sure there is an extra oar and always a bailing can. If you use a motor, have it checked periodically. Carry tools for minor repairs.

Be sure you have enough fuel. Carry an emergency supply in a strong can. Fuel only in daylight, except in emergency. If fuel is spilled on the motor, dry it completely before starting. A spark from a short circuit may ignite the fuel.

Personal Precautions

Learn the basic rules in boating etiquette and traffic. Have life preservers readily available. They go on easier and better before and not after the crisis of an emergency. Don't fail to provide life belts or jackets for children aboard. They can slip through an adult-sized one too easily.

Keep your buoyant cushions really buoyant. Don't let them get soggy and flat. Sunbathe them often to puff them out.

Overloading

Overloading is dangerous because the boat rides lower in the water allowing waves to wash in. The boat will also take water with a smaller tip. Ordinarily, a small boat with motor or sail is loaded when the seats are full and there is no freight. With rough water, anything more than seated load may be too much.

Improper Loading

The best place for the load is on the bottom and in the middle. Passengers

Don't risk killing or gashing swimmers with motor's propeller blades. Swimmer at right demonstrates "floating technique" of knotting and inflating his trousers.

OLIVER brings the big change in corn harvesting

Here's a completely new concept in harvesting corn, the greatest advance since the invention of the husking peg.

As long as corn has been grown, it has been "picked" by hand or machine. But now, Oliver *threshes* corn—takes the entire stalk through a self-propelled combine. And, saves up to 15% *more* than any other machine.

Today, farmers can adopt *one-machine* harvesting of *every* seed crop. And, in corn, do *three* jobs in a once-over pass. Stalks are *cut* by the combine's sickle, sent to the cylinder butts first. Ears are *shelled*, stalks and cobs *broken* and *crushed*. A well-pulverized mulch goes back onto the field, now all ready for plowing.

Oliver's row-crop header also pays its way in sorghum harvesting—handsomely. When weather "downs" the stalks, and when all other machines fail—here's the unit that saves the crop. If you'd like more facts on the modern method of harvesting corn, see your nearby Oliver dealer, or write to: The OLIVER Corporation, 400 W. Madison Street, Chicago 6, Illinois.

OLIVER OLIVER

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1958 FISHING CONTEST

GRAND PRIZE—6 h.p. OLIVER MOTOR

SIMPLE TO ENTER!

Just catch a fish and send in an entry.

EASY TO WIN!

Casting outfits to the three top winners in each class! A bonus prize to the first 100 to enter!

EVERY ENTRY WINS A PRIZE

CLASSES

1. Largest fish—Each fish will be judged on the basis of how close it comes to the record catch of its own species.
2. Catfish—The largest catfish caught regardless of specie. (Not eligible to compete in class one.)
3. The greatest total **weight** of pan fish caught in any one day. (A pan fish is a small fish suitable for frying whole.)
4. The greatest **number** of pan fish caught in any one day.

CONTEST RULES

1. Anyone can enter the fishing contest if he is under 21 years of age at the time he catches the fish.
2. Your fish must be caught between April 1 and September 2, 1958. Your entry must be postmarked not later than midnight, September 2, 1958.
3. Your fish may be caught in the waters of the United States or its possessions, or in the waters of Canada or Mexico. You must comply with the fishing laws of the place where you catch your entry.
4. You must catch the fish yourself unassisted, but it can be caught with any kind of rod, reel, and line and on any kind of lure or bait. (Trotline not accepted.)
5. You must submit a close-up side view photograph of your entry if it is a smallmouth bass, pickerel, or walleye. For all others, a photo is not required but we would like to have one.
6. Each contestant will be eligible to win one prize only (except in the case of the grand prize), though he may submit as many entries as desired. In the event someone submits more than one entry, the top place entry will be considered.
7. In case of ties, the one with the earliest postmark will be declared the winner. Judges are the staff of *The National FUTURE FARMER*, and decisions of the judges will be final. Entries cannot be ackowledged or returned. Winners will be announced in the October-November issue of *The National FUTURE FARMER*.

ENTRY BLANK

The National FUTURE FARMER Fishing Contest

Your entry must be postmarked not later than September 2, 1958!

PLEASE PRINT

1. If entering Class 1 or 2, fill in this part:

Kind of fish ..... Weight: lbs. ..... ozs. ..... length .....
(Exact name: whether trout is Brook, Rainbow, Lake; bass is largemouth, smallmouth, etc.)

If entering Class 3 or 4, fill in this part:

Weight of fish ..... lbs. ..... ozs.; Number of fish caught .....

2. Where caught ..... Date caught .....

Caught in fresh water ..... ; Salt water ?.....

3. Caught with: Rod & Reel ..... ; Spinning Rod ..... ; Fly Rod ..... ; Other .....

4. Caught by: (Your name) ..... Age .....

Address: ....., City ....., State .....

5. Signature of parent or ag teacher .....

Your ag teacher or parent must affirm your entry by signing it. They do not have to see you catch the fish, but must see the fish. They must certify the kind, weight, and length of your fish; or in the case of the pan fish classes, must certify the number or weight of your catch.

Mail entry to Fishing Contest, *The National FUTURE FARMER*, Box 29, Alexandria, Virginia.

should never sit or stand on stem, stern, or gunwales. In rough weather, the load, including passengers, should be placed low to keep the boat stable sidewise, and away from the ends to give bow and stern buoyancy so that the boat will ride over and not bury in the waves.

If one person rides a boat, he should keep away from the ends, especially in a canoe.

No Dancing

Only one person at a time should get into, out of, move about, or stand in a boat. All the others should watch him. Boats should be held alongside the dock until all passengers have boarded or stepped ashore. In entering or leaving, do not jump, leap, or lunge. Transfer your weight smoothly.

When Trouble Comes

If caught in rough water, turn your boat so that the waves are received on either the left or right side of the bow. Do not get crosswise. Slow down; a strong sea and speed don't mix. Get passengers and luggage into middle of the boat and on the floor to permit the bow to move up and down more readily. Throw out luggage if necessary. Keep bailing.

In a canoe, get off the seats and kneel on the bottom. If you are alone, kneel or sit on the bottom just back of the middle. Above all, get off the rear seat.

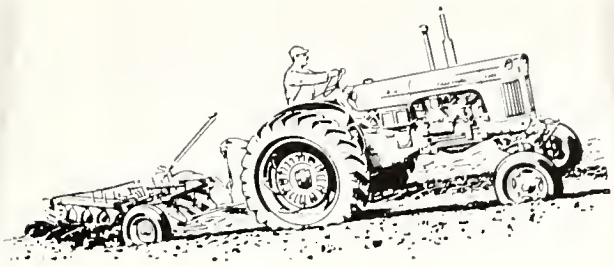
On a small lake it will be better to drift across it rather than try to fight against the wind and current.

If your boat capsizes or fills and sinks, don't get panicky. Most small boats will support several persons even though filled with water. Even if it turns over, it will support as many persons as it can carry upright, providing one clings lightly. In rough or cold water, tie yourself to the boat.

Man Overboard

If anyone goes overboard, get him into a life jacket first before trying to pull him aboard. To get a person on board, take him over the stern if it is square, or near it if the stern is not square. Above all, do not let him come over the side or you will all go in. Help him in with one of your hands free to cling to the boat. A nearly drowned person, especially a child, can usually be handled best if he is bent double and picked up by the seat of his pants. When his buttocks are on the edge of the boat, an elbow hooked around the waist will bring the rest of him in.

These safety habits are worth while learning. By our actions, we can spread this knowledge among the many new boating devotees every summer and avoid tragedies.—*By Raymond Schuessler.*



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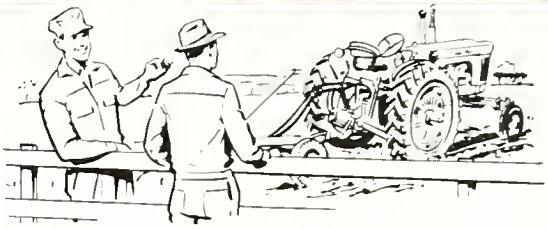

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BASEBALL'S UNDERCOVER WAR!

By Raymond Schuessler

BALLPLAYERS are not by nature lunkheads. But with nine eager athletes who have spent most of their lives growing muscles, cavorting on a ballfield, some system of communications is necessary to enable so many individuals to play as a unit and find the right base at the right time.

So, a semaphore system of disguised signals pipelines sly strategy from the brain of the manager to his players. Such gyrations have naturally led to counter-espionage movements as all clubs attempt to intercept and shove the opposition's strategy down their own throats.

This is baseball's obscure undercover war which never shows up in the won and lost column but which truthfully has a profound effect upon the standings. There's a saying in the dugout that a ball club doesn't win the game; the other team loses it. Whatever else you may believe about the offensive strength of the perennial pennant winners, the truth is that they make the fewest mistakes.

In one game alone over 200 signs may be flashed, all of them vital to the outcome. Every movement, picking up dirt, yelling, spitting, crossing the legs, pointing the toes, touching the face or uniform, blowing the nose, even yawning, or any combination or sequence of these—are scrutinized by the sign stealers. Does that coach really have ants in his pants, or is that a bunt sign?

A ball club is really only as good as its signal system, or sometimes only as good as its anticipation of opposing strategy. Suppose, for instance, with the winning run on base, the coach has stolen the catcher's sign to the pitcher and can tell the batter that a curve or fast ball is coming? Or the defense catches the squeeze bunt sign? Baseball would be an easy game if it wasn't for the unexpected. That's why managers and coaches are hired and rookies spend years in the minors learning to count.

Of course, some rookies never learn to read the team's complicated signal system and must be given a simple one-stroke sign. One time a coach tried desperately to convey a sign to a rookie who backed out to "rub off a sign" (meaning he didn't get it and wanted it done over). He did it twice more. Preacher Roe pitching for Brooklyn became restless on the mound and finally shouted, "He wants you to bunt, son, B-U-N-T!"

The Yankees actually know most of the signs the top pitchers in the league use. "The Yankees leave as little as possible to chance," says Bob Cerv, former Yankee. "Players not in the lineup had to concentrate on the job of 'reading' whoever was pitching against us. We learned to watch the mannerisms of every pitcher and how his habits tied in with every pitch he threw. Often we could tell our batters which pitch to expect. Mantle clobbered several homers off 'called' pitches. The Yankees wouldn't tip their hand early in the game, nor when we were ahead."

A single stolen signal at the right time can mean the difference between the pennant and the million dollars that goes with it, or an also-ran. In 1953 Billy Herman and Chuck Dressen stole the Cincinnati team's signals to win the pennant for Brooklyn. "We cracked the signal code of four other teams that year," Herman recalls.

Take the 1952 World Series in which Brooklyn seemed on its way to win its first World Series. The Dodgers took a 2 to 1 lead in games. In the fourth game they were behind by one run when they rallied. With runners on third and second, Dressen decided to work the squeeze play. Dressen gave a million signals from the third base coaching box, then suddenly ran his hand across his throat. Immediately Billy Martin, who had played under Dressen in the minor leagues, shouted "Squeeze Play" to Allie Reynolds, the pitcher. Reynolds threw low and outside, trapping the pale runner at the plate.

The game just couldn't be played without signs. Not only does the catcher know what the pitcher is going to throw, but very often the entire team knows. The shortstop will pass the signs to the rest of the team who are then on their toes ready to move in the most likely direction. Great plays are made because of such anticipation. Terry Moore, great centerfielder of the St. Louis Cardinals, credited many of his sensational catches to the fact that he knew a righthanded pull hitter would hit a breaking pitch to left field.

Keen eyed Mike Gonzales, coach of the Cardinals, once helped St. Louis win a pennant by detecting a Cincinnati shortstop's method of relaying signs to the outfield. For a curve the shortstop would hold his glove on the inside of his knee; for a fast ball, he would shift his glove to the outside of his knee. But whenever the Cardinals were ahead, the wily Gonzales would turn off the espionage to minimize suspicion even in face of strangulation by his own hungry hitters.

The catcher's signals to the pitcher are usually standard: one finger means a fast ball, two fingers mean curve ball and three fingers a change of pace. However, the signals are usually given in series and this is where the interpretation must come in. Sometimes all three signals are flashed and only the middle one counts; or the first or third; and they are often inter-changed in the middle of the game.

With a runner on second base it is particularly important for the catcher to conceal signs. Whenever Peewee

These men chose before enlistment— so can you!

Pvt. Floyd E. Van Briesen
Brookings, South Dakota
Graduate, School of Agriculture

"I picked my own Army job training, and it was guaranteed for me *before* I enlisted. I chose a fine Diesel Repair course. My instructors were really good, and the training equipment was the best you could find. Now I'm an expert in diesels. I found *only* the Army offers a deal like this."

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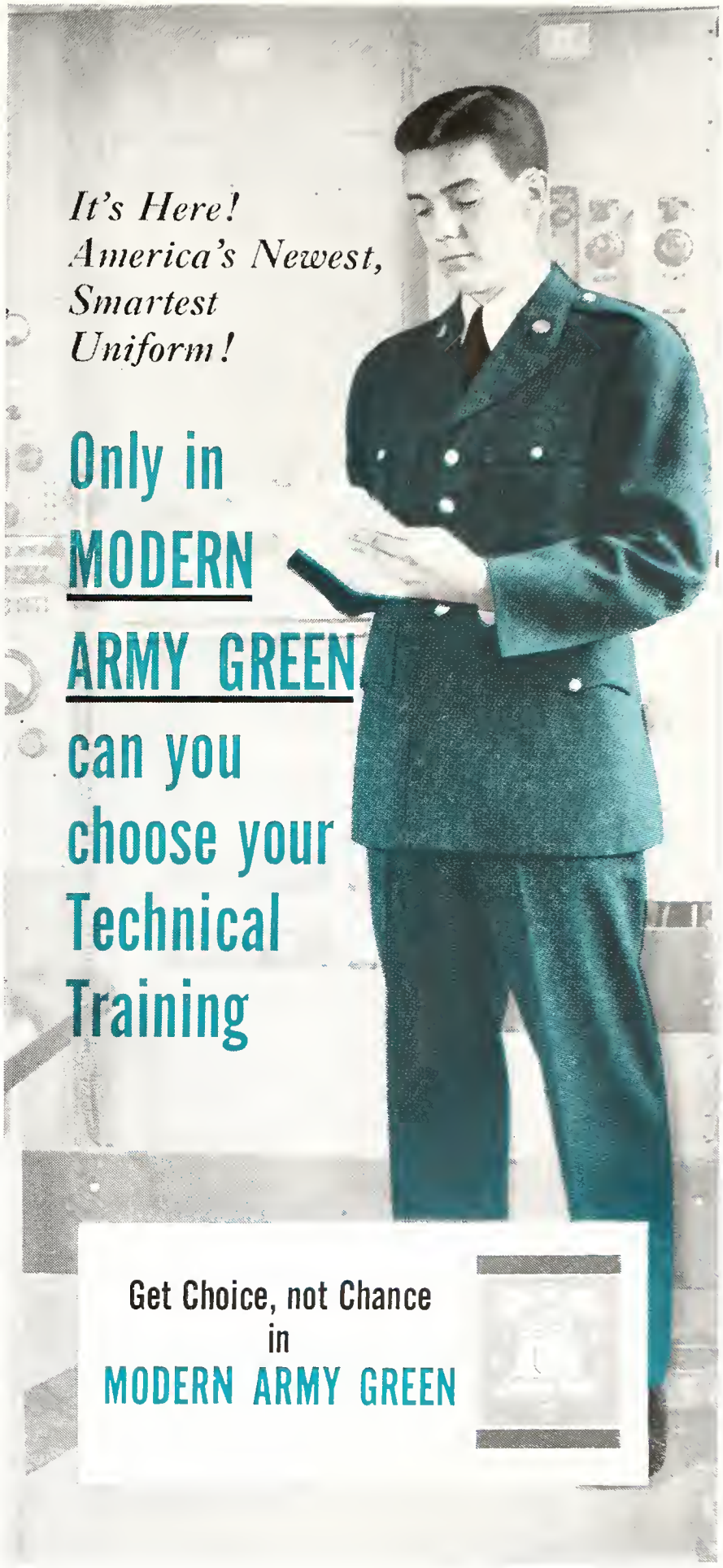

Reese is on second, the standing orders on all clubs are to run Peewee back and forth to the bag so he will have less time to study the catcher's signals.

You've got to be right in stealing signs or you can endanger your players. A team may deliberately let you steal a sign and then cross you up. This is known as counter-counter-espionage. When Chuck Dressen flashed a "stolen" curve sign to Ducky Medwick, a fast ball broke his skull and ended his baseball career.

One time the Chicago White Sox "caught" Casey Stengel's bunt sign. Later during the year with two men on base, Casey flashed the phony bunt sign. The Chicago infield moved in and the batter laced a double through the charging infield, scoring the winning run. To make his act look good, Casey bawled the player out for missing the sign. The next day he pulled the same stunt and won another game.

The catcher sometimes can be "read." Some stretch their left leg out when they call for the curve to block a ball going into the dirt. Then there are shortstops who move towards second base when a fast ball is called on a right hand batter, and towards third on a curve ball.

Del Baker, when he managed and coached Detroit, was a master at reading pitchers. He called the shots for Hank Greenberg when Hank was the American League home run king. Baker still calls them for Ted Williams and Jackie Jensen of the Boston Red Sox.

The art is almost as old as baseball itself. The first man in history to make a business out of sign stealing was Danny Murphy who played for the Philadelphia Athletics in 1910. He spent his paid-time on a rooftop outside the stadium where he spotted and decoded the catcher's signs with the aid of opera glasses. He used a large weather vane in a number of prearranged positions to tell batters what was coming.

The practice in far more ingenious form has been carried down to the present day. "The Giants had an office in centerfield where they put a telescope on the catcher," Cincinnati once claimed. And Lou Boudreau, when he visited Cleveland Stadium, accused the scoreboard operator of stealing the visitor's battery signs and relaying them to the Indian bench. He should know: he used to manage the Indian club under the same system.

Not all managers believe that baseball signs must be fantastically complex in order to prevent the opposition from reading them. "The simplest signs are the best," Marty Marion, Chicago White Sox manager believes. "If the signs are too complicated your own players get so worried about catching them that it affects their play. Secondly, the simplest signs actually are the most difficult for the opposition to steal because they are always looking for the complicated."

This may be true for Marion. But other clubs just don't believe it.

"Baseball is a lot smarter today," Sal Maglie believes. "It not only takes a genius to devise the signals, but it takes a college education to read the signals right."

Which reminds us of the Cuban ballplayer who got to the big leagues and was losing his marbles over the constant barrage of intricate signals. After one humiliating strikeout his manager roared, "Why didn't you at least swing the bat, the 'take' signal was only for the first pitch!"

"Well," the rookie sighed, "I take one for you, I take one for the coach, and I take one for myself."

◆◆◆

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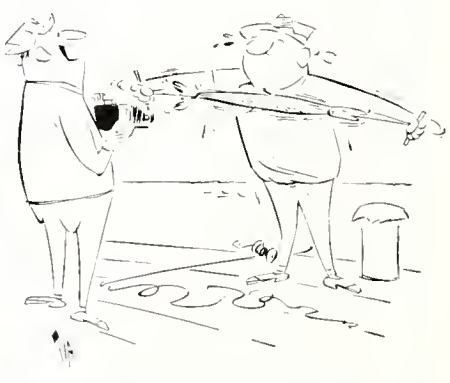
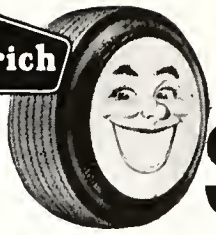


"That's great, now hold it!"

B.F.Goodrich



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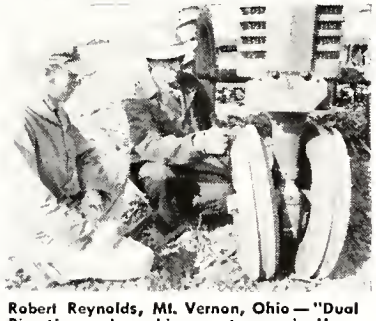

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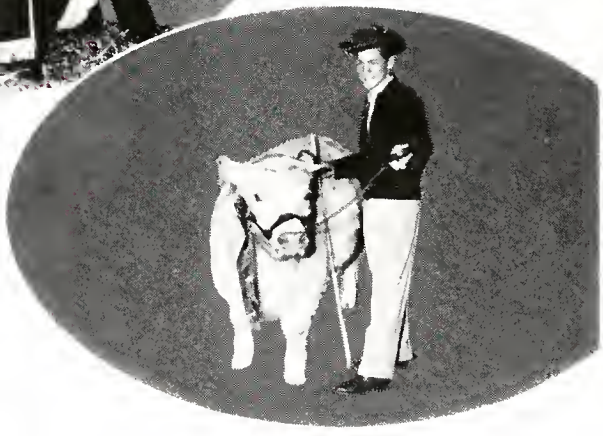
Zato, Grand Champion Steer, Houston Fat Stock Show, brought $10,000.00 to 14 year old J. P. Dodgen, Llano, Texas. Calf Manna fed all the way.



George Ruis, Plant City, Florida, with $4,000.00 Shorthorn Steer, White Knight, Florida, State Fair Champion. Says Ruis, "I'll recommend Calf Manna to any young farmer who wants to hit the winner's circle."

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Chains Get Results

Future Farmers at Delhi, Louisiana, credit chapter pig chains with much of their success. Ten years of operating Hampshire, Duroc Jersey, and Chester White chains have netted them a lion's share of FFA honors.

"The chains help a lot of members in a lot of ways," declares advisor W. A. Gaharian. "They strengthen our program of work by supplementing chapter-supervised farming activities." And he offers proof! The Delhi Chapter has two national Gold Emblem awards and four Silver Emblems to show for co-operative achievements and several outstanding members to represent their claim for individual benefits.

A set of definite rules is responsible for the smooth operation of their pig chains. Serious applicants for chain pigs must be able to furnish plenty of pasture. Gaharian says grazing oats is most popular for fall, winter, and early spring; while Bermuda, lespedeza, and other warm-season crops are used in summer.

Participants must be familiar with requirements for animal health and sanitation. Worming and vaccination principles must become second nature to chain applicants. They are also encouraged to grow corn as a supplemental measure.

Participants keep the cycle moving by returning one pig from their animal's first litter. Permanence of this plan is assured by a swine-centered chapter farm where Delhi students maintain three registered boars and a brood sow for emergencies. Co-operative selling rounds out the chain's services and is so effective that above-market prices are common for chain sales.

On the Delhi drawing table now are plans for a sheep chain program. Chapter members figure this will give even more boys a "start in farming." Gaharian says four of their 1958 American Farmer applicants started farming via the chapter pig chain.—*By Emil McCarty.*

Delhi American Farmer Richard Dearman and his champion barrow raised from litter of chapter pig chain sow.

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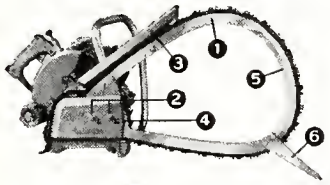

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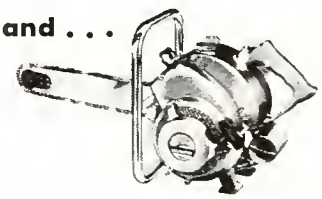

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Allis-Chalmers' utility tractors feature low-line, high-clearance design that provides a low center of gravity for stability and extra high axle clearance. Power-Shift rear wheels and Roll-Shift front axle permit changing wheel widths fast and safely without the use of jacks or blocks. Tractor equipment includes disc harrows, coil shank and field cultivators, blades, scoops, tool bars, post hole diggers, subsoilers, and carriers. Some equipment manufactured by others may be used.

FLEX-O-RACK

A new extension side rack fits all years, any make or model, 1-ton, ¾-ton, and ½-ton pickup trucks. The all-steel rack is manufactured by Pierce Metal Products of Dearborn, Michigan. The rack has no sharp corners. The members are 5-gauge steel, 1 by 2-inch steel channel. The adjustable sleeves are 5-gauge steel, 1 by 2-inch tube. Captive weld nuts speed assembly which can be done by an end wrench in a few minutes.

SELF-PROPELLED BALER

New Holland Machine Company has produced a self-propelled baler—the Haycruiser 178. While only a few were made for 1958, more are expected for 1959. In front of the operator's seat is a control panel. One lever controls ground speed, another baling speed. Electric starter, pickup control and fuel gauge are also in front of the operator. Four speeds forward gives numerous driving speeds for highway travel. A 51-h.p. engine propells the baler. Baling rate to 400 bales per hour.

PORTABLE SHOWER

A new, portable outdoor shower for home use is announced by Forest Specialties Company of Cleveland, Ohio. Featuring a simple slotted bracket that attaches to any outside surface such as house, garage, barn, shed, post, or tree. The shower assembly slips into a slide in-slide out holding bracket in seconds and connects to the garden hose. It is just as quickly taken down and stored when not in use. The shower is made of rustproof anodized aluminum for long wear and stay-new appearance. The swivel shower head permits full wide spray in any direction. Available in four different colors.

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These six booklets are free. To order, circle booklet number in box below; clip, and paste on post card. Mail with your name and address to *The National FUTURE FARMER*, Box 29, Alexandria, Virginia.

No. 1—THE FUTURE CATTLEMAN is a well-written, 80-page booklet containing valuable information for prospective livestock farmers. Breed selection, feeding, shelter, and diseases are subjects covered in detail by this four-color publication. A special section on marketing beef cattle explains sales, advertising, and shipping problems. Book is dedicated to farm youth interested in the beef cattle industry. (American Hereford Association)

No. 2—POISON PROOF HOME is a two-color brochure outlining the facts behind accidental chemical poisonings in the home. Learn which household articles are responsible for these tragedies and how to prevent them. (Johnson and Johnson)

No. 3—WHAT EVERY PLANT GROWER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SOIL pH is a comprehensive booklet with charts, graphs, and illustrations designed to help growers achieve bigger crop yields, better lawns, and more for the fertilizer dollar. Answers basic soil questions about pH in language you can understand. Tells how to turn this knowledge into profit. (Beckman Scientific Instruments Division)

No. 4—PROFIT TIPS ON BULK MILK COOLING may clear up some of your questions about this latest trend in milk marketing. Puzzled about the economics of this type cooler? Here is a list of its advantages and a discussion of initial cost and possible savings. Also lists many handy plans for the milk house. (Sunset Equipment Company)

No. 5—MECHANICAL PASTURING is an attractive 24-page four-color summation of the advantages in green chop feeding. This booklet contains experiment results and testimonials bearing out the economy of this management practice. Includes results with both beef and dairy cattle, as well as actual pasturing tips. (John Deere)

No. 6—NUTRENA PIGLOO SYSTEM is the title of this 32-pager explaining the workings of company's new hog-raising principle. Presents over-all layout of Pigloo with drawings and photos. Explains how the method works WITH nature and tells how to finance an operation from scratch. (Nutrena Feed Mills)

1 2 3 4 5 6

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"Stop that PTO before leaving your tractor seat."
"Wear close-fitting clothes that will not catch on moving parts."

"Keep all guards and shields in place, especially on the PTO shaft."

Good advice for any farmer — and the FFA program to remind farmers of these simple precautions is paying off in fewer accidents throughout the corn belt.

It takes persistence to call on every corn harvest equipment owner in an assigned area. It takes courage to tell a man old enough to be your dad that he could use some safety reminding. It takes time and effort to contact newspapers, radio and TV stations to get them behind the program.

Yet FFA members are doing all these things, and we're proud to help sponsor their efforts. As they have learned so well, good farming is safe farming.

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Better Feeds for You

PROGRESS in animal nutrition in recent years is nothing short of amazing. This was demonstrated at the 50th convention of the American Feed Manufacturers Association held recently in Chicago where scientists from leading colleges and the feed industry gave a report on progress during the last 50 years. The facts brought out should be of interest to every young man who has a future in animal agriculture.

Nowhere is the results more staggering than with broilers, an industry that has increased 43 fold in only 24 years. It's particularly important here, too, since feed costs account for from 50 to 75 percent of all production costs.

Experimentally, the scientists produced a three-pound bird in only 44 days with a little over three pounds of feed. One group actually obtained a feed to weight ratio of 1.01. Though this ration is not practical at present, it does indicate things to come.

Using today's commercial feed, the same scientists got a three-pound broiler in 49 days with 5.37 pounds of feed. Compare this with the old timers of 1912 that needed 78 days and 9.09 pounds of feed.

With laying hens, scientists have learned that today's feed is converted into the egg that will be laid tomorrow. A short time, isn't it? Here is how it breaks down. More than one-half of the egg is manufactured in only three hours. Two-thirds of the egg was feed and water yesterday, the day before it was laid. How do they know? By using radioactive tracers in the feed which show up in the egg laid the following day.

Since eggs are formed continuously, feed nutrients must be available. As for feed efficiency, today's hen uses only about five pounds of feed to produce a dozen eggs, compared with eight and one-fourth pounds for a hen in 1908.

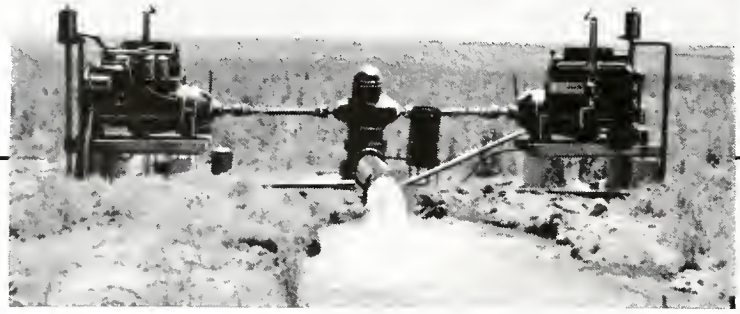
In dairying, milk replacers for raising calves score as a major development. In experiments, scientists were able to raise a calf for $8 less using replacers instead of whole milk—a saving for the dairy farmer. There are indications that milk replacers are healthier since they contain antibiotics and other additives.

Modern day rations for beef cattle will produce a pound of gain on only 4.4 pounds of feed. In 1908, it took 6.7 pounds of feed to produce a pound of gain. Today's sheep ration is 34 percent more efficient than the 1908 ration. In tests with hogs, 2.8 pounds of feed were required to produce a pound of gain, while it took 12.9 pounds back in 1908.

We can't credit it all to miracle additives. Some of the greatest strides came from learning how to combine the known nutrients into a more efficient combination.

Management and improved breeding can also claim some credit. Nevertheless, feed nutrition has made rapid progress in recent years and scientists indicate there is more to come.

◆◆◆



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Double Victory

By Ethelyn Pearson

When her father said any son-in-law of his would have to be a good farmer, two young men battled it out with varying odds.

BILL EASED OUT THE CLUTCH and shifted as quietly as he could. It was nearly midnight and there was no use waking all the Burtons. This date with Betty Burton had been much like the many others Bill had had every Saturday night for the last year. Betty was his girl . . . his and Len Elders', that is. Every Sunday night for the past year Betty had kept a date with Len. Bill and Len had each asked her to go steady with him. She had been very sweet about it. Said she wasn't quite sure and to "please, please let's just go on like we are a little longer." Neither Bill nor Len liked the arrangement, but neither cared to give up. Betty was a doll.

Tom Burton was a big, blunt man. He believed in coming directly to the

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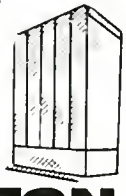

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point of whatever issue was at hand. Betty was the baby of the family and Tom had no intention of letting her do as her sister had done. Donna had married Joe, a fellow nice enough in every way it seemed. The family had moved in only a year before from another state. Before Tom had taken special notice, Donna was flashing her engagement ring in his eyes. After that, there was no breaking them up. Joe's pigs seemed to be ready for market when prices invariably were the lowest. Joe's corn was in last and was often caught by early frost. Joe's soybeans nearly always rusted. He wouldn't believe that cultivating them wet did it. The same things year after year happened to Joe. As a result Donna did without many things that would have made life easier for her. Donna seemed happy enough, but Tom felt to blame for not paying more attention to what sort of provider she had married. He was determined the same mistake would not be made with Betty. Tom never admitted, even to himself, that there was any situation which he could not change if caught in time.

Tom had seen Bill at the feed mill and Len at the machine shop. He had told both the same thing.

"Seems my Betty thinks the same heap of both you guys. I don't want that she should do without like Donna, so come next fall the one with the best yields gets to keep comin' after Betty. Don't make no difference to me which one it is."

Len agreed with him completely. That would be a fair and just way of deciding the best provider. Their farms were side by side. Both had a good sandy loam soil and would have the same growing conditions. Len looked very pleased as he eased his nearly new pickup over the rutty roads toward home. He figured that his mostly new line of machinery would make the difference. He had inherited a slice of his grandfather's money. Not a staggering amount, but enough for a down-payment on machinery.

As Bill piloted his nineteen-fifty pickup home his brow was creased into as many furrows as the road. He didn't like the setup. His hay baler had limped grudgingly through the last season and his corn planter was more uncooperative each year. He had planned on trying to get along with it another year. Now, he wasn't sure if he should or not. He wondered if it could be possible for Betty to think exactly the same of him and Len? Len's handsome face, with its crooked smile, a smile that Bill had never been sure was sincere, seemed to be before him. Bill vowed he would farm as he had never farmed before.

"He's got the best machinery, that's sure. But my farm is as good and I've got lots of wire," Bill told his reflection in the rear view mirror. He was a pretty good mechanic, but a piece of baling wire had held many a machine together for just a few more rounds.

The spring broke, warm and clear, with plenty of rain. The boys were so busy farming they seldom stopped to visit over their line fence. They planted oats first, then corn, and last soybeans. The oats were used mostly for feed and for a nurse crop in this part of Minnesota and was not considered a cash crop.

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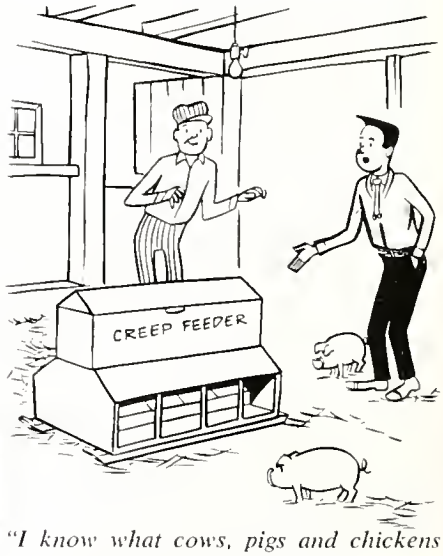
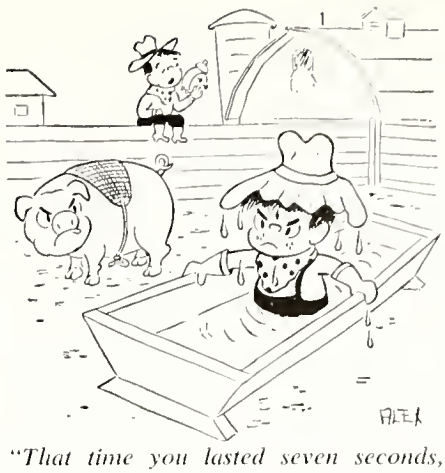


"I know what cows, pigs and chickens are; but what's a creep?"

The big cash crop—the crop upon which many budgets depended to keep them in balance—was corn. There were a few minor breakdowns, but nothing too bad. Bill's check wire was old and had to be worked on a day before he could even start. Len's pickup balked the day he was to go in and get his seed corn, but it turned out all right as Betty offered to go in and get the load with Tom's truck. Upon hearing that, Bill was sorely tempted to throw in the towel and quit driving himself.

The weather continued favorable on into the summer. Both oat fields looked about the same and so did the soybeans. It was the corn that would tell the story. The whole neighborhood was now in on it and some went several miles out of their way to see who was ahead. Both boys got much advice, some good, some bad. Bets had been placed and wagers made. The corn broke ground about the same time. Both had been blind cultivated. It was at about six weeks that Len's grin seemed a wee bit more lopsided and sarcastic than ever. His corn was pulling ahead! Bill's corn had the same healthy deep green color, but was shorter by several inches when it was eight weeks old. Bill wondered what number of fertilizer Len had used this year. They had always used the same fertilizer and usually the same seed, as did the others in this area. Bill tried to act as if he did not hear the



"That time you lasted seven seconds, Tex!"

taunts and jibes from Len's friends when he went into town. Betty was her own sweet self.

At four months Len's corn was as high as his head with stalks like his arm. Bill's corn was still considerably smaller. In spite of the lush appearance of the corn, Len's smile had begun to fade and those that had bet on his field were beginning to hedge. The ears were just beginning to set, while the ears on Bill's corn were already formed.

It was now October. Bill's field looked old and tired. The ears hung straight down. The leaves made a dry whisper as the wind blew them to and fro. Len's corn was eight feet tall, still a beautiful deep green with huge ears that measured sixteen inches and was still in the milk. October 8 was the first killing frost, which opened the corn picking season. The growing season had come to an end. Any corn not hard by now would not keep. There was no need to figure up yield. Bill had won, hands down. His corn was hard. Len's corn was nearly a total loss. What could be fed up soon was all that he would have.

It was the middle of the week that Bill saw Tom's car turn into his drive.

"Hi, there. Just thought I'd stop to see if you knew Len lost out? Can't understand that! He swears it's the same as he's always had. Anyhow, you got a good field there and that was the deal."

"Thanks, Tom. It's too bad about Len. He's a much better farmer than that. Something happened."

"Yeah—and I bet I know what. He's been makin' fun of your machinery ever since you boys set up side by side. He

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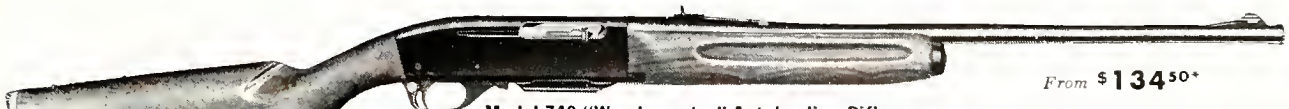

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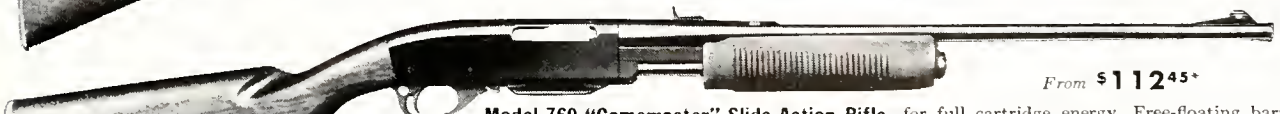

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ordered some new wild-fire, sure record-bustin' variety to show you up and got fooled. Betcha anything that's what happened. Good machinery don't mean much if you don't farm right; and if you do a good job of farming you'll soon have the machinery. I don't want my Betty hitched to a feller that figgers that way. See you Saturday night," and Tom was gone.

Bill went back to feeding his hogs. Somehow, he didn't feel the joy, the happiness, he had expected. He felt sorry for Len, but that wasn't it. Len had always been a little too sure. Things had broken right for him and it had made him a snob to anyone with less.

Saturday night Bill picked up Betty and they went to a show. He knew he should say something about being the winner, but somehow it just wouldn't come. After the show they sat out in the Burtons' yard for awhile. Bill told himself that Betty was sweet and efficient. The man that won her was a lucky guy, and that was he. Only he didn't feel lucky. He felt confused and just plain awful.

"Bill, something has been the matter all evening. Can you tell me what it is?"

"I'm okay. Just tired, I guess. I'll feel better after a night's sleep. You'd better go in now. It's chilly out here. See you Saturday night." Bill opened the porch door for her. As he turned to go she slipped something into his hand. It felt like cardboard or stiff paper. He put it into his jacket pocket and started the car.

Oh, you yellow coward you! Why didn't you ask her? Such a miserable fool! Why didn't you ask if she would have gone as willingly to Len if my machinery had broken down? If I had broken a leg would she have been making up to Len tonight? Sure hope she noticed I said I would see her next Saturday night, like always—not Sunday night that had been Len's. I don't like my girl to be a prize. Too much like a raffle.

The car scattered the gravel as Bill turned in at his drive on two wheels. He had been so quiet and pent up all evening it had seemed good to tear home. His heart was like a cold rock as he slowly undressed. He threw his jacket over the back of a chair. A scrap of cardboard fluttered to the floor. It looked like a tag off something. Bill stooped, picked it up, and began to read aloud, "Hybrid Seed Corn. Good Producer. Long ears carried high on the stalk. Ripening date 120 days."

A hundred and twenty days! Why that was Iowa corn! Eighty-seven and ninety days was the longest maturing that anyone planted here where the growing season was short unless it was used as fodder. Where did Betty get that tag, and why did she give it to me?

Bill sank slowly down on the bed as the impact of what had happened hit him.

No! Oh, no! Can it be? She did want me to win! Why . . . that darling little rascal! Bill glanced at his watch. It was too late to go back now, but she'd see him tomorrow, you bet. Sunday wasn't Len's day any more. First he grinned, and then laughed aloud. He could just see her switching Len's seed corn order and then cutting the tags off the sacks. His heart like a rock? Nonsense! It had wings like a bird! His girl had chosen him before there was a kernel of corn in the ground! ◆◆◆

"Well how does it feel, dear, after two whole days as a farmer?"

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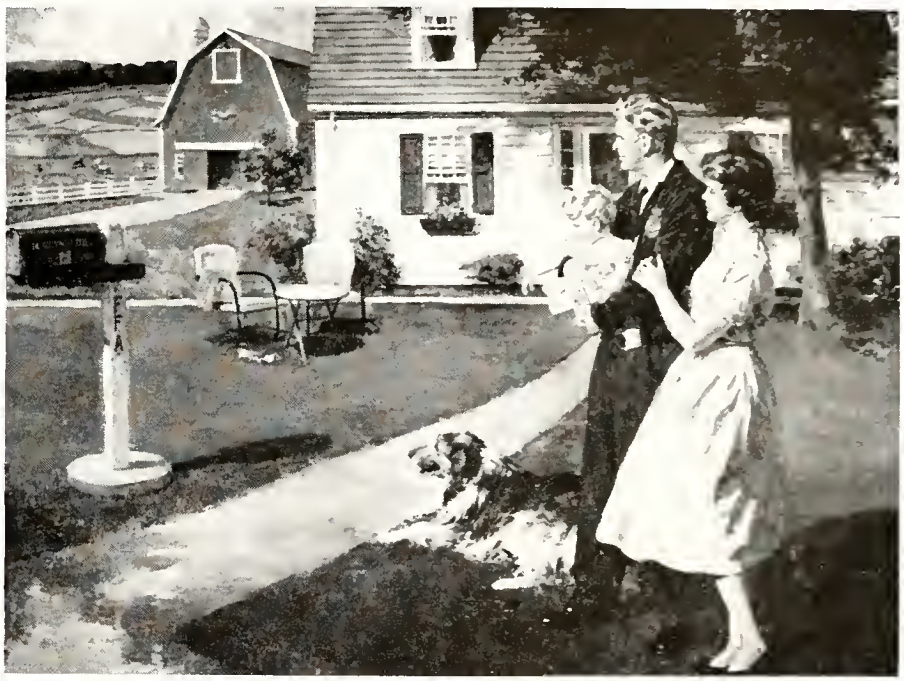

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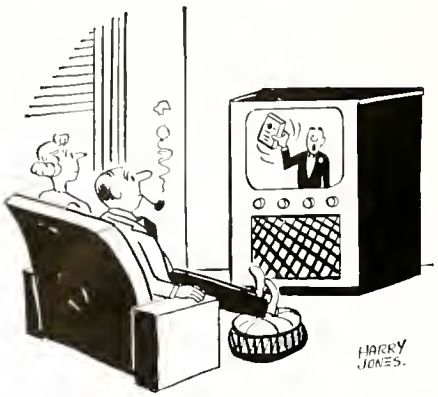
CHAPTER'S NAME .....

The First One Doesn't Have A Chance!



"I repeat . . . send in the box top but KEEP the cereal. We've had a carload of mistakes!"

Even a woodpecker owes his success to the fact that he uses his head.

John Pearce
Conway, Missouri

Dazed motorist: *"I had the right of way, didn't I?"*
Bystander: *"Yeah, but the other fellow had the truck."*

Fred Sanger
Blackstone, Virginia

Tenderfoot: *"What is that long rope on your saddle for?"*
Cowboy: *"Catching cows."*
Tenderfoot: *"How interesting! And what do you use for bait?"*

Dawn Ebur
Lebanon, Pennsylvania

Farmer: *"Did that tornado yesterday hurt your barn?"*
Second farmer: *"Don't know. Haven't found it yet."*

Judy Flory
Abbeville, Louisiana

Lila: *"Jackie is really a gossip, isn't she?"*
Marilyn: *"I don't like to agree, but when she came back home from vacation, her tongue was sunburned!"*

Donna Keener
Ashland, Ohio

Fond mother: *"What's the matter now, Stanley?"*
Little Stanley: *"P-p-papa hit his finger with a hammer."*
Fond mother: *"Well, you needn't cry at a thing like that. Why didn't you laugh?"*
Little Stanley: (Still crying.) *"I did!"*

Richard Duborg
Columbus, Wisconsin

A boring clergyman was provoked to find an old man falling asleep during the sermon. Speaking to the old man's grandson, the minister said:

"My boy, if you will keep your granddad awake during my sermon, I'll give you a quarter each week."

For the next few weeks the old gentleman proved to be a wide awake listener. But on the fourth Sunday, he lapsed into slumber. After services the preacher asked:

"What's the meaning of this, my boy?"

"Well," drawled the boy, *"my grandpa upped the price to 50 cents if I would leave him alone."*

William A. Bell
Walnut, Mississippi

A little boy was visiting a farm and saw a rooster flapping his wings before crowing He turned to the farmer and asked:

"Is that rooster cranking up to blow his horn?"

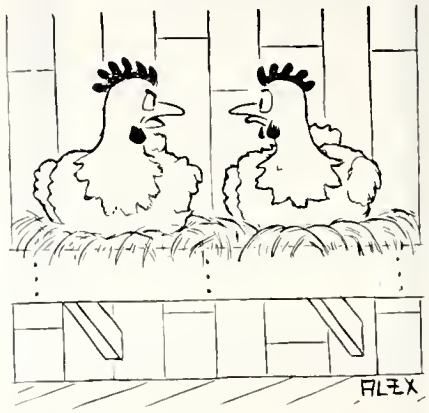
Jerry Breland
Heiberger, Alabama

A party of tourists came upon an Indian brave riding a pony. A heavily hurdened squaw walked beside him.

"Why doesn't the squaw ride?" asked a tourist.

"Ugh," grunted the Indian, *"she got no pony."*

Chico Mann
Amarillo, Texas



"I'd sure like to know what they expect me to hatch out of this idiotic glass egg!"

"Daddy," cried a little boy, *"mummy ran over my bicycle when she was backing out of the garage."*

"How many times have I told you not to leave your bike on the porch?" he scolded.

Bill Petermann
Stillwater, Oklahoma

"Why, what are you crying for, sonny?" asked dad of his four-year-old heir.

"I heard you say you were going to get a new baby, and I suppose that means that you'll trade me in on it," he sobbed.

Terry Walker
Corrituck, North Carolina

Charlie, the Green Hand

"A book report is not a report on the late late TV movie version of the book."

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This is the 45 Combine at work in corn. You can cut field shelling losses by 75 per cent—ear losses by 50 per cent—by combining your corn. And, you can harvest from 1,500 to well over 2,000 bushels per day, depending on the size of John Deere Combine you use.

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Combining all combineable crops with one machine makes good, sound business sense. It spreads your investment over more acres . . . it reduces upkeep costs . . . the original cost is lower. And, you reduce field shelling losses of corn by 75 per cent—cut ear losses 50 per cent. These tremendous savings of corn are made possible by the exclusive design of the corn attachment and because you can combine your corn earlier, when it has as much as 30 per cent moisture.

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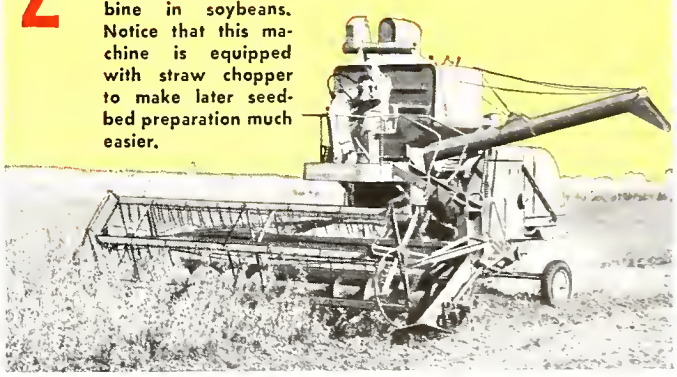
Get full details on owning the John Deere Self-Propelled that best fits your needs from your John Deere dealer. He is looking forward to seeing you soon.

2 • GRAIN HEAD

Here is the 55 Combine in soybeans. Notice that this machine is equipped with straw chopper to make later seedbed preparation much easier.



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